

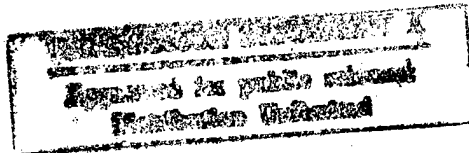
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South and East Asia Report

No. 1189



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9 September 1982

SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

No. 1189

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JOINT FEDERAL-STATE ANTITERRORISM PLAN DISCUSSED

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 19 Jul 82 p 10

[Article by Paul Molloy]

[Text]

The explosion that shattered the night air outside the Hilton Hotel at 12.40 a.m. on February 13, 1978, threw Australia into the frightening world of terrorism.

However, it was the appearance of more than 1,000 troops in the streets of NSW and the subsequent massive security that had the lasting impact.

It forced Australian police and security planners into the world of counter-terrorism.

The decision by the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, to call out the Army to protect Government leaders as they went to their new Bowral venue, to continue their conference, is said to have appalled the NSW Premier, Neville Wran.

After the conference, Mr Fraser and Mr Wran agreed that Australia's terrorism defences needed organising and strengthening.

The result is the first National Anti-Terrorist Plan, a blueprint for uniform action against terrorism.

It has been approved by the Federal Government and every State Government and police force. As yet, it has not been tested, but many believe it is only a matter of time before it is put into effect.

One policeman vitally involved with the operation of the plan is the NSW Assistant Commissioner, Mr Angus Graham.

"It is inevitable that a terrorist incident will happen here, sooner rather than later," he said. "The world of terrorism has already moved so far, so fast, that what seemed far-fetched a few years ago is today a reality."

Mr Graham pointed out the window of his 19th-floor office at Police Headquarters to a building opposite: "Imagine if a heavily

armed terrorist group took any number of people hostage there to make political demands.

"Look at the logistic problems we would face. Imagine not only clearing the building but anyone in the line of fire. It could go on for days like the Iranian embassy siege."

Could it happen here in Australia?

A key element of the anti-terrorist plan is that it could. A primary objective of any terrorist incident is to generate publicity for a cause; the place where it happens is of little significance.

The speed pictures and news can be transmitted ensures that any incident receives world-wide coverage: The Iranian siege or the Munich massacre were seen in Australian living rooms when they happened.

Planners believe this emphasises the inevitability of terrorism coming to Australia.

Terrorism is not easy to define. However, NSW police believe that terrorist incidents will fall into seven categories:

- Kidnap of a politician, a public figure, a wealthy businessman or the families of these people.
- Assassination, by shooting or bombing, of VIPs;
- Hijacks of aircraft, ships or trains;
- Seizure of premises such as embassies or government buildings;
- Seizure of hostages;
- Sabotage by bombs, mines, arson, contamination or other means vital to society.

Indiscriminate shooting or bombing in a public place, designed to inflict maximum casualties and chaos.

Who deals with terrorism? Having seen the crack British Special Air Service virtually launching an

invasion on the Iranian Embassy in London, most people expect the Australian Army's SAS to be on hand to do the same.

But the SAS is based in Perth—many hours away from a possible terrorist incident in Sydney.

An Army spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel David Brown, said yesterday that the Army believed there was more than adequate reaction time for the section of the SAS trained in counter-terrorism to get to the scene.

It is believed that once a situation was given a full alert under the national plan, the SAS would already be on their way.

The full alert is the highest level of precaution in a counter terrorist operation. The lowest level is "standard."

With the SAS so far away, the immediate responsibility for handling terrorist incidents rests with special 30-man anti-terrorist squads established in every State police force. In South Australia this group is called Star Force; in Victoria, the Special Operations Group (also called Sons of God); and in NSW the Special Weapons and Operations Squad (SWOS).

If a plane is hijacked at Sydney Airport, for example, a set plan goes into operation. If possible, the plane is directed to a pre-selected part of the tarmac.

The trained police negotiator finds out what the hijackers want. At worst they will be fanatics for a cause, competent in the use of weapons and conditioned against normal negotiating techniques.

Outside Mr Graham's office at police headquarters, police establish a State Crisis Centre with representatives of the Premier's Office, the Department of Defence, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) who have information on terrorist groups, the NSW Special Branch and other groups.

In Canberra, the Prime Minister appoints a duty minister to head a Crisis Policy Centre to give advice on the national policy towards the terrorists.

These groups are kept in constant touch with the plane by a Forward Command Centre, headed by a senior operational policeman.

As with most operations, containment is the main aim at first while police assess the strength and resolve of the terrorists. Time also assists in getting the SAS to the scene, although NSW police are confident their emergency group is capable of handling almost any emergency.

Co-ordination is the main aim of the plan.

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

NEW ARTILLERY PURCHASE--The Australian Army will purchase a number of 105 mm light guns which is manufactured by the Royal Ordnance Factories, Nottingham, United Kingdom. Under an agreement signed recently the Australians will later manufacture the guns themselves. The Government's decision was taken only after a thorough investigation and comparative appraisal of other light guns systems. This ROF 105 mm medium range light gun is air portable and has a range of 17 km. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur ASIAN DEFENSE JOURNAL in English Aug 82 p 99]

CSO: 4220/295

INDIA

BRIEFS

CRACK DOWN ON SECRET ORGANIZATIONS--New Delhi, Sunday--Indian security troops have detained four "prominent" members of the outlawed "Young People's Army" (YPA) fighting a secessionist battle in India's northeastern state of Manipur, PTI agency reported today. The agency, in a report from the state capital Imphal, said it was the first time that the organisation had been successfully cracked. During the arrests yesterday the troops also seized a modified rifle, two country pistols and ammunition from the YPA's dugout. In a similar operation, soldiers also busted a "well fortified" command post of another banned organisation, the prepak. Three rifles a hand grenade, ammunition and several important documents were seized at the post, located a bare 16 kms (6.2 miles) from the army headquarters, the agency quoted official sources as saying. (AFP) [Text] [Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 26 Jul 82 p 10]

CSO: 4220/292

BRIEFS

ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT--The Indonesian Navy has taken delivery of a further two Nomad Search-master L aircraft provided as part of the ongoing Defence Cooperation Programme Maritime Patrol Project. Announcing this the Australian Minister for Defence, Mr Ian Sinclair said this brought to 16 the number of Nomads provided to Indonesia. A further two aircraft were scheduled to be delivered later this year. Mr Sinclair said the aircraft were part of the continuing practical assistance being given by Australia to the Indonesian defence forces and to Indonesian economic development. They would be used by the Indonesian Navy for protection of fishing rights, search and rescue activities and detection of smuggling and illegal entry into Indonesian archipelago waters. Mr Sinclair said that Australia was assisting in the development of the Indonesian Navy's depot level maintenance facilities in support of the 18 Nomad aircraft. This would enable Indonesia to maximise the benefits provided by the Australian-built aircraft. "The Nomad project has been a most successful example of exporting Australian technology and skills. Indonesia's continuing requesting for maintenance and support for the Nomads have generated further work opportunities for Australian industry," he said. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur ASIAN DEFENSE JOURNAL in English Aug 82 p 13]

CSO: 4220/295

LUANG PRABANG PARTY ACTIVIST PROFILED

Vientiane HENG NGAN [LABOR] in Lao 1-15 May 82 p 7

[Interview with Comrade Yeya, a worker representative who attended the Third Congress of the LPRP, by a HENG NGAN reporter; date and place not specified]

[Excerpt] Comrade Yeya was born in 1946 in Ban Phousoung and Phousoung Canton, Xieng Ngeum District, Luang Prabang Province, Lao Soung nationality. At the present time he is a secretary of the labor union unit base and also the director of the Lao plywood factory.

[Question] What did you do in the revolution that gave you the chance to be selected to attend the LPRP Third Congress?

[Answer] I joined the revolution in 1964, and was a guerrilla protecting the border at the Long Ngeum stronghold. In 1966 I was assigned by the higher echelons to capture and take weapons away from our turncoat soldiers who returned home and those who fled to surrender to the enemy in Phousai Canton. I took part in fighting in Phousai, Viangsom and Vang Viang. In the beginning of 1968 after succeeding in that fight, the organization and the higher echelons sent me to study culture in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for over 5 years. After I finished my studies I went abroad to study specialized tasks. When I came back I was assigned to work in the preparation section in the industrial wood factory.

Since I received a rank in the worker organizations, I was appointed to be a labor union unit secretary, secretary of the mobilization committee to set up the labor union base in the factory areas, and was also appointed to the labor union section committee of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. I was once appointed to be secretary of a party chapter committee in a base-level factory.

In the past I performed good deeds and some small achievements which contributed to the revolution, which were honored and praised by our party and government leaders. For example, I received a victory medal second class, a medal for best labor first class, and many different medals and complimentary certificates from the central party and the government. Another important aspect is that the party center pays attention to young cadres who have a future aimed at training and who will carry on the revolutionary work. They

also pay attention to cadres of all races and factory worker representatives so that they can have a chance to attend the congress. Also, the party members and workers trusted me and appointed me to be a full representative to attend the congress. I am a representative of all the factories under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, as well as a representative of the party committee of that ministry. I am also a full representative of the all-party committee subordinate to the party and the government.

9884

CSO: 4206/69

CRITERIA FOR PARTY MEMBERSHIP NOTED

Vietiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 29 Jun 82 p 2

[Column: Conversation With the Editor]

[Text] [Questions] To the editor: I always follow your column. First of all, I hope you don't mind receiving a letter from someone who has handwriting and problems like these. I have a couple of questions.

1. How do we train ourselves to be party members?
2. What are the old regulations? If it is possible, please print the complete [issue] in this column. I hope you can help to clear this up for me if it is not against the laws of the country. Sincerely yours, Chattavong, Educational Office, Tha Pha Canton, 9 June 1982

Dear Comrade Chattavong: I am glad VIENTIANE MAI is being distributed in Tha Pha. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the propaganda service in Hatsaifong District which made it possible for the newspaper to reach the masses in their area of responsibility. Even though it is not widely disseminated, they have helped to increase the distribution to the masses. This is to carry out their obligation assigned by the country and the people. As for your questions, I will discuss them briefly, as follows.

1. The party's plenum has clearly indicated that all Lao regardless of sex and age have the right to join the party's work. This phrase indicates that all Lao have the rights to be party members. It is important to train themselves to the standards and regulations of the party.

Comrade Chattavong, you are a cadre and a party person. The basic [rules] are the 7 standards that will advance you to become a party member. We will not give you a long explanation now because you have read the party's regulations that were printed during the Third Party Congress. When you review them you will know how to train yourself for it.

2. I cannot fulfill your needs because the party's new regulations that were scheduled to be released have already been published in VIENTIANE MAI. It was made clear that all the old regulations that are not in line with the new ones will no longer be effective. You should determinedly read the new regulations and carry out all the new regulations correctly.

9884

CSO: 4206/68

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, SHORTCOMINGS NOTED IN IDEOLOGICAL INSTRUCTION

Vientiane SUKSA MAI [NEW EDUCATION] in Lao Jun 82 pp 2, 5, 12

[Editorial Column: "Taking Better Care of and Educating our Children as Much as Possible"]

[Text] Children are precious stones, valuable scions, and the future of the families of the entire nation. Our party and government has always considered small children to be the scions and precious stones of the nation, and the protection of the rights and interests of small children is a major and most important policy.

Under the leadership of the LPRP, regardless of whether it was during the difficult time of the nation's liberation because of the fierce war, no matter how long it was our party tried to lead the people to study and reduce illiteracy for leaders, and the mothers of infants. This was aimed at liberating women, establishing equal rights for men and women, expanding production and determinedly organizing children to be taken care of and taught.

Since the LPDP was established our party and government has made the creation of the new Lao man an important issue in the transformation and construction of socialism nationwide. In many ministries, offices, organization, factories, hospitals, and schools, each place has its own nurseries and kindergartens where cadres really take care of and teach children. In this 1981-1982 academic year we accepted over 6,000 children from 2 months to 3 years of age. Kindergartens accepted over 11,000 children from 3-11 years old. Over 600,000 small children and youth were in primary and secondary schools. There are correct teaching techniques that are guaranteed to teach the offspring of the people of all races to be good and to know the six loves and three hates. The December Youth was organized as a place to train and model children to have socialist characteristics. When they pass their examinations they can continue in higher classes without any restrictions or tuition fees. As an annual special event we celebrate a children's fair in order to help parents and guardians steadily understand the importance of small children, and to carry out the mother and child plan by paying attention to and taking care of mothers' health and considering this an important issue. Along with the good points and the admirable successes we had, we still have many mistakes.

For example, a number of nurseries have become jails for small children. Some offices and organizations have not yet determined to build nurseries and kindergartens, even though they are able to do so. Some women who take care of children, and also kindergarten teachers, are not determinedly responsible for taking care of and teaching small children in accordance with the special tasks they had studied. In some places, the educational services have not yet guided the masses to see its importance and to participate in setting up nurseries and kindergartens at their best. Therefore, we demand that the party committee, the administrative committee, and all levels of the educational committee to act to improve and eliminate those mistakes from now on.

In the report of the Central Committee at the LPRP Third Congress concerning the policy and duty in the first Five-Year Plan 1981-1985 for education, there were several parts which assessed kindergarten work as a big section playing an important role in the national education system. It emphasized the problems of organizing and taking care of mothers and children. A plan was also set to determinedly increase the numbers of students and kindergarten teachers by 6.4 times.

In order to carry out these weighty, honored, and exalted responsibilities, our education sections have a responsibility to build new Lao socialist men directly for the new regime. First of all, they must mobilize everyone to see the importance of child rearing and kindergarten work, especially party members and mass organizations, to deeply absorb in order to mobilize people to enthusiastically participate in and strengthen this work, and to determinedly improve and expand group units for nurseries and kindergartens in offices, organizations, factories, schools, hospitals, agricultural settlements, forestry settlements, and large regiments having many female workers and state employees. Agricultural co-ops that are qualified until the end of 1985 all over the country must increase the numbers of nurseries and kindergartens by 4 times over the present number. The General Education Department must study the fixed rules of playgrounds for small children to send to the central level and provincial municipalities and some big districts in order to prepare to build one playground in each place within the period of the Five-Year Plan. Meanwhile, we must expand basic-level schools into the villages by paying attention to the areas of nationalities and races so that children of school age can go to schools and to facilitate their continuing study in secondary and upper secondary classes as they please. We must struggle to spread the lessons learned from the kindergarten school movement which the Ministry of Sports, Education and Religious Affairs agreed to have built as models for kindergarten schools all over the country to learn from. In the 1981-1982 academic year we must struggle to provide all requirements in order to prepare to build one school for nursery attendants in the mid-level of system 8 + 3. From the 1984-1985 academic year on each province must be persistent in opening one school for nursery attendants for the 5 + 3 basic-level system. [To deal with] the shortage of nursery attendants and teachers, each province must organize their own maintenance by aiming to the curriculum of the Ministry of Sports, Education and Religious Affairs. We improved a mid-level kindergarten teacher training school in Dong Dok by [supplying] necessary and

sufficient educational materials and equipment, and by expanding the school to make it fit for promoting quality construction. In the 1981-1982 academic year each province must be persistent in opening one school for basic-level kindergarten teachers of its own in order to fulfill the needs of its own localities. Any provinces that have already done this should continue this work as usual. The Ministry of Sports, Education and Religious Affairs will provide teachers for the learning project. Meanwhile, we should determine to encourage kindergarten teachers in offices, organizations, agricultural settlements, agricultural co-ops, and many different production units by organizing a short term improvement center in political ideology and responsibility, steadily increasing the specialized task level, organizing to share their studies, and sending them to study abroad or to their sister provinces in Vietnam. We should also aim at cooperating closely with the Public Health Section, factories, production bases, the mobilization of the student-parent organization, the Educational Assistance Association, the Youth Union organization, the Women's Association, and the Labor Union in order to take care of and provide sufficient facilities. The important thing is to achieve the best understanding of the connection between teaching and training small children in three environmental situations, families, schools and social organizations, in order to unify them all by having an organization to decide and study together regularly, and to have help from the fraternal socialist countries, international organizations and friendly allies.

Only by doing things this way will we be considered to determinedly participate in carrying out the policy of the party and the government in training Lao descendants and youth of all races to become new socialist people, in order to carry on the revolutionary work of the LPDR, and also to bring the plenums of the Third Party Congress to fruition.

9884

CSO: 4206/69

ANTI-LPDR OPERATIONS INVOLVING CPT, EXILES NOTED

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 31 Jul 82 pp 16-18

[Article: "The Underground Movement In Laos, a Sign to the Coalition Government"]

[Text] Since the three liberation groups in Kampuchea have been able to unite, the anti Vietnamese-Soviet operations in Kampuchea have increased on both the political and military fronts. In Laos, a country on Kampuchea's northern border where Soviet-Vietnamese influence is very strong, the operations carried on by the various liberation forces have not declined. Laos is becoming another war mire that is dragging in tens of thousands of Vietnamese soldiers and that will bog them down in this country for an unknown length of time.

Recently, several newspapers printed stories about the efforts of the Free Lao movement and right-wing Lao groups, which are composed of people who were in the government of Prince Souvanna Phouma, to establish a government-in-exile. The stories stated that this movement is being carried out at a time when Thailand is supporting the establishment of the Khmer coalition government in order to take this opportunity to ask for support from the Thai government too.

That is another image of the movement by those forces that are opposing foreign influence in Laos. Actually, such operations began to be carried out when Vietnamese influence became apparent. The only thing is that, in the beginning, there was a lack of strength and continuity. Things were dispersed and operations were carried on mainly at the local level. The important reason for the birth of the opposition movement at the local level was the oppression by the present government. In particular, the system used to collect taxes in the rural areas was just as oppressive as that used by the previous government.

Army information officials have revealed that when relations between the Communist Party of Thailand and Laos began to deteriorate, Lao revolutionaries who had become dissatisfied with the actions of their country's leaders fled and took refuge in the CPT's zone of operations, particularly in the northern provinces bordering Laos such as Chiang Rai, Loei and Nan. Nan Province in particular, which is a secure base zone of the CPT, shares a long border with Laos. Lao people who live near the CPT zones have fled to these zones. Those among them who are able-bodied men have established armed forces, and they have received various types of support from the CPT, including combat training.

These forces cross over and carry on small-group operations in Laos. They spread political propaganda, carry out harrassing attacks and carry out acts of sabotage against the supply, weapons and food storehouses of the Vietnamese forces. They then return to the Thai side. But they have not been able to carry on continuous or really forceful operations.

On another front, when the Soviet Union and Vietnam gradually began to encircle China and it reached the point where force was used to seize Phnom Penh in July 1979, China had to build a barrier against this. As for the barrier on the Lao front, China tried to exert pressure for the formation of a revolutionary party to oppose the influence of Vietnam and the Soviet Union, which have used the government of Mr Kayson Phomvihane as their proxy. This revolutionary party was the forerunner of the Lao Socialist Party, which spread propaganda for a period of time and then became quiet.

A SIAM MAI news source said that, during the first period, China tried to have a new Marxist-Leninist party formed, a party that would follow a socialist policy similar to its own. Mr "Serisanan Saenyanuwong," the former director of the information office, was to serve as the activist. But because of insufficient "prestige," this party was not able to serve as the nucleus of the various forces spread throughout Laos. And what is important is that the various forces began to hate the communists. This was another reason.

Thus, China changed its policy and gave various types of support to all groups, regardless of whether they were leftist or rightist. In Kunming, the center for the offices of various revolutionary organizations in this region, both Lao and Vietnamese leaders of the anti-Vietnamese forces began to appear. Besides this, China opened up Su Mao, a small town 600 kilometers south of Kunming in Yunnan Province. This is a quiet town near the Lao border. It was opened up to serve as a training ground for Lao armed forces.

Some of these people are Lao people who came from the refugee camps in Thailand and were taken in by China. They began to receive training in 1980. Their next step was to announce that they were a large organization with a policy of opposing the Vietnamese troops in Laos. Similarly, preparations are being made to form a new Vietnamese liberation movement composed of former high-ranking leaders in the Vietnamese government who fled to China.

But there is another problem that looks as if it will be a major problem. That is, there are other liberation forces that are now active in Laos, including the forces of General Vang Pao and the forces of a former officer in the Souvanna Phouma government. These forces are active in Champassak Province. The leader is a major. He commands forces of approximately battalion strength. These forces have shown their power several times and caused fear among the Vietnamese troops. It seems that these forces are not at all willing to join the forces sponsored by China. This will probably pose a serious problem in the present attempt to join the liberation forces of Laos.

However, concerning this, Thai intelligence sources who have followed these movements closely have become very worried about how Vietnam will react. This

is because such activities are not taking place just in the northern part of the country near China. These forces in Laos are also very active along the Thai border too. And because of these movements, the Lao government, which is Vietnam's proxy, will certainly be suspicious of Thailand's actions.

One official said that since China and Asean have started an offensive in Kampuchea, which will be followed by action in Laos and Vietnam, Vietnam will perhaps respond by again supporting the fighting in Thailand, as has appeared in the press. For example, [there have been reports about] a new party. And Nguyen Co Thach recently told Mr Dhanabalan, the Singapore minister of foreign affairs, that Vietnam would respond to Asean's actions by establishing terrorist forces in order to destroy countries in Asean.

11943

CSO: 4207/137

REPORTER INEPTITUDE IS CAUSE OF PAUCITY OF BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 30 Jun 82 p 2

['Conversation with the Editor' Column: "Biographies Should Be Printed"]

[Excerpts] [Questions] I understand that important visitors to our country probably bring brief biographies along with them.

Ambassadors to Laos from other countries probably have their biographies.

Perhaps our ambassadors who are sent to other countries should have brief biographies.

I want to suggest that their brief biographies be printed so the people would know them better. For example, in issue No 4447 for 18 June there was news about sending Mr Khamta as ambassador to the USSR, and a new ambassador from Mongolia was to be sent here. We would like to know the brief biographies of those who are to be sent to other countries as to how capable they are, how much political experience they have, their ages, and where they're from and where they're going. Sincerely yours, P.N.Ng. R.Ng.B. 19 June 1982

[Answer] To the comrade who uses the pseudonym of Beer Factory cadre. I agree with your opinions concerning the news which we present regularly. However, recently we have not covered it as clearly as we should have. The reasons for this could be the lack of intelligence of our reporters and inability to get the information. It might be that sometimes they are too modest to inquire, or sometimes it is because people do not want to propagandize themselves. They only let us know about it, and it is as if that should be enough. However, the major reasons arise from our reporters themselves. They are too shy and modest, and not intelligent enough. If we have good reporters I believe all the news would be clearly reported in detail, and also it would be most exciting indeed.

Forgive us for our weaknesses. We will gradually and carefully study them in order to improve our weaknesses. Thanks for your opinion.

9884

CSO: 4206/68

AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT REPAIR TRAINEES IN CSSR NOTED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 29 Jun 82 p 3

[Article was translated and compiled from STAVOINDUSTRIA of Czechoslovakia:
"Lao Students in Czechoslovakia"]

[Text] (Busitka) is a small town in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Its population is only 500, and it is located in the southeast part of Slovakia. It is an important agricultural center. It is a place where 20 Lao students have been studying agriculture for over 3 years. The agricultural center has been set up for 25 years, and it is the place where youth from 17 23 years of age from the LPDR will earn their living repairing agricultural machines in the future.

At the beginning they were confronted with many difficulties because besides adjusting themselves to the unfamiliar weather and food, they also had to attentively study Slovak. There was only one Slovak-French and French-Lao dictionary. However, these things were not obstacles and now they live as if they were in their own home.

In the classroom they attentively follow the teacher's explanations with determination to find out if there would be any difficulties in technique or specialized task vocabularies they had not known before. This effort has eased the worry the teachers had about the young technicians who will be applying their studies to participate in building the nation's economy in the near future.

9884

CSO: 4206/68

LAO STUDENTS IN TASHKENT DESCRIBE CONDITIONS

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 26 Jun 82 p 2

[Feature Column: "We Feel at Home Over There"]

[Text] In the past 10 years a great number of Lao youth both male and female have studied vocational courses to become draftsmen, welders, and lathe operators in Vocational School 57 in Tashkent (USSR). At the present time there are 47 Lao youth who are studying at this school. What kind of lives do they lead in Tashkent?

On the day we arrived at the school it was final examination time. Thus, school was over. One committee of examiners looked at the things they had studied that time. (Champhao, Khabur and Ounlanot) were invited to be at the machinery unit. Khamphao has just come from being a Lao farmer. (Khabur) is the son of an agricultural co-op member in Bukhara, in Uzbekistan. These two are 20 years old. Both are sophomores in the same field, and share the same room. They always go together, whether to the work shop, library or the sports room. It is most interesting to see them talking together. Khamphao spoke in Russian and Khabur tried to answer in Lao, because everybody wants to learn everything about the other's country as quickly as possible, and as best they can. The educational results of the past 2 years were outstanding.

Khamphao received the first prize in the school competition for "Do you know Russian?" As for Khabur, he is able to read the Lao journals and newspapers sent regularly to Vocational School 57. Normally they help each other, but in the examination they become fierce opponents. Each tries his best to answer accurately and with speed. After 15 minutes of diligent work two pieces of paper were put on the examiner's table. The grades showed the work to be that of good students. These two got the best marks (5), and this was written down on the examination paper.

(Adenatsanov), the industrial subjects supervisor for the Lao students, satisfactorily pointed out that he has been teaching the art of drafting for a year and can see that the efforts of the Lao have not gone to waste. We can conclude that all the Lao students passed the examinations with assurance. Three fourths of the students received the best grades (5), and the others got good grades (4).

The solid material base of this school contributes a great deal to the victory of studying. The material base was set up by the enterprise for which the school provides cadres. This is the Tashkent factory and "Saretskabul Unit." This factory has the most modern equipment. There are machines controlled by computers. There are production lines and high-pressure apparatus of many tons. There are two students in each room in the two dormitories having modern decoration. They have one sports room and a club.

It is clear that the construction of this school was very costly. The cost for one person to go to this vocational school is calculated to be 700 to 800 rubles per year. The government pays for all expenses. All students including the Lao get three meals a day free, and the clothing they need. The school pays for their shoes. Each week the students go to theaters, movie houses, and exhibition halls. In the summer they spend their vacations in different vocational centers. Moreover, they also receive other support funds.

We want to know the ideology of these 20 Lao youth, both men and women, who have just finished their sophomore year in the USSR. They gathered together in the front room of the graceful dormitory, and a picture album was passed around. The photos in the album showed the biggest events in the lives of the Lao. Khamphao, the head of the unit, explained the pictures. One was when they went on a field trip to the exhibition hall to honor the labor of "Saretskabul Unit." They were stunned by its gigantic size, its modern equipment, and its worldwide reputation. They were so happy to know that they would be trained there.

Khamphao added that at the exhibition hall they were shown old pictures in which they could see how the Russians had confronted many difficulties when they first started the enterprise after the Great Patriotic War. The example of the Soviet Union proves that labor, solid belief in ideology and confidence in victory were able to help them get through all difficulties. The Lao people still have to do a great deal of physical work in order to see prosperity. However, without knowledge the work will not come true. Thus they determinedly study their best.

Miss Kiang continued the conversation. Her friends call her a singer because she likes to sing and dance a lot. When she arrived at the school she asked what kinds of musical instruments they had: a piano, an accordin, many electric guitars and an organ. This girl said it would be good if there was a Lao two-stringed violin also. Not long after that, a Lao two-stringed violin appeared in the school club. They saw it in the Eastern music section of the Tashkent School of Music.

After learning that Miss Kiang played the Lao two-stringed violin very well, the students of the Tashkent School of Music gave one to the Lao students who were members of the amateur club. She told us about the picture where you could see the amateur dancers who were doing the Lao "Lamvong Champa Dance." "This is me, and these people are my dear friends, Lena Aliseva and Ala Sakarova. They taught me to sing and dance in Russian. We performed together in May. Our group participated in the amateur art contest of the Tashkent

Vocational School and won. In Tashkent we met our closest friends. This included Comrade M. Sammati who is the most senior in the group. He is 26 years old. Sammati once worked as a welder in the Nam Ngeum Electric Center in our country."

Sammati said they were all capable of being far away from their fatherland. The Lao New Year season became a real festival all over the school. They celebrated the New Year with their Russian friends, and visited Samarkand and Bokhara. They will still work together in the factory for training. When Sammati was 19 years old a Soviet builder, Ivan Vasiliev, who went to Laos to help to revive our economy taught welding to him. "Now we are studying to be draftsmen. The longer I stay in the USSR, the more grateful I am to the Soviet people. I believe all Lao students who are still in this school feel the same was I do.

9884

CSO: 4206/68

BUDDHIST EDUCATION IN SAYABOURY REPORTED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 30 Jun 82 p 3

[Article: "Buddhist School in Pak Lai District"]

[Text] Everybody knows that before the liberation our country was hidden and did not have a chance to claim itself as an important country. In terms of education it was most confused. It did not expand and was backward.

After the country's liberation, Lao Buddhist monks and novices as well as Lao people nationwide have put on a new face. Work in all areas has been widely expanded, the outstanding one being education. Whether in rural areas or in towns, its network has been widely expanded. Speaking specifically, Buddhist schools along with other general education schools nationwide have expanded into all bases.

Pak Lai is a district in Sayaboury Province. Its education has been expanded because it clearly understands the policy line of the party and government, which says that education should lead one step before other work. A number of Buddhist monks and novices who graduated from basic level and mid-level schools have voluntarily decided to serve in Sayaboury Province. In Pak Lai District alone we have now been able to set up a Buddhist school in town that includes both complete primary and secondary schools. The Buddhist school in Pak Lai District started its secondary level in 1977 when there were only 10 student monks. In 1978-1979 there was a second-year class. In 1979-80 the first group of 11 student monks finished the third year class. In 1981-1982 alone the total number of monks in the secondary school level in Pak Lai District was 65, and 90 percent passed the annual final examination.

At the present time the Pak Lai Buddhist school is continuing educating Lao Buddhist monks and novices to become progressive monks in line with the policy of the new regime. All monks know how to adapt their Buddhist morality to the present social situation in Laos.

9884

CSO: 4206/68

CHAMPASSAK PARTY ACTIVIST PROFILED

Vientiane MEGNING LAO in Lao May 82 p 9

[Column: "The Women's Association's Full Representatives Who Attended the Third Party Congress": 'Mrs Sida Somsinikon']

[Excerpt] Mrs Sida Somsinikon is 60 this year. She is one of the two senior women among the full representatives of the Third Party Congress. She was born in a poor farmer class in Ban Soloyai, Pasom Canton, Sanasomboun District, Champassak Province.

Because she was oppressed and the victim of extortion by the local feudalists, she was mobilized by the revolutionary forces, and in 1957 she voluntarily joined the revolution and became a solid mobilization base in Ban Soloyai. Moreover, she also was responsible for sending food supplies to feed the cadres and soldiers who were working secretly for the revolution.

In 1959 when the enemies increased their revenge toward the former resistance people, she fled to live in the jungle and became a "sister" who took care of others for 6 years. In 1964 she mobilized women on a large scale in Pakse District. In 1966 she was responsible for setting up the Women's Association organization in that locality. After the revolution she has participated in improving the work of the Women's Association organization in Champassak Province, especially in downtown Pakse. At the present time she is a member of the mobilization committee for setting up the provincial Women's Association, and is also the chief of Sanasomboun District's Women's Association and that district's party committee.

9884

CSO: 4206/69

KHAMPENG BOUPHA PROFILED

Vientiane MEGNING LAO in Lao May 82 pp 8, 9

[Column 'The Third Congress': "Women Representatives Who Attended the Third Party Congress, Comrade Khampheng Boupha"]

[Text] Comrade Khampheng Boupha was born on 15 January 1923 in Ban Pa Kham, Wat Mai Canton (now called Chomsi), Luang Prabang District, Luang Prabang Province.

After a group of the Lao Issara of Luang Prabang seized power in Luang Prabang at the end of 1945, she was assigned by this group along with women in all the villages and cantons, to actively gather materials such as food supplies, clothing, weapons and bullets in order to feed and help equip the Issara army units. She also mobilized young women to join the young women's unit along with military training and mobilized young men to join army units.

In 1946 when the French colonialists recaptured Luang Prabang, she and her family fled to Thailand in order to continue the struggle. During the 5 years she stayed in Thailand she took care of resistance cadres operating abroad.

In 1951 she returned to Laos and operated in the strongholds. In 1952 she was assigned to teach the children of resistance cadres who had gone out to fight. In 1954 she trained primary school teachers and she worked in the educational service of the Lao Issara center echelon. In 1956 she was a mobilization cadre for the united front and became an alternate member of the party. In 1957 she was promoted to full party membership. In 1958 she was selected to be the people's representative for the Lao Patriotic Front. In this election she became the first woman representative in Laos. After the members of the Lao Patriotic Front were arrested she was placed under house arrest and was not allowed contact with anyone. However, she acted legally as well as secretly in order to plan to get the leaders out of prison.

In 1964 she was elected to the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee. In 1965 she was appointed chief of the mobilization committee for establishing the Lao Women's Association nationwide. In 1970 she was elected to the

party committee office subordinated to the party Central Committee. In 1972 she was elected by the Second Party Congress to be an alternate member to the Central Committee of the LPRP. In 1975 she was elected a standing committee member of the Supreme People's Council. In 1979 she was elected to the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, and in April 1982 she was elected by the Third Party Congress to be a full member of the LPRP Central Committee.

After the congress was successfully and gloriously closed, our MEGNING LAO reporter interviewed her concerning the main thrust of the Third Party Congress, and in the interview she said, "the LPRP Third Congress gloriously scored its achievement. That achievement was a great historic victory because it was the collective result of the victorious revolutionary leadership of the party in the past for the revolution, especially the party's leadership during the two strategic revolutions, namely the protection and building up of the nation. This victory was the result of the preparations made for the congress, which was very strictly carried out consistent with the actual condition of our country. It was also a fruit of the solidarity between our party and the people of all races, and the solidarity and strong international support for our revolution."

"The Third Party Congress was opened under mature domestic conditions. The situation in the world and in this region did much to facilitate this, but it was mostly due to the First Congress when the party had just seized power. In only 6 years it set the correct policy during the period of transition to socialism in our country. This collective policy is a detailed one in all aspects and was tested under actual conditions by using Marxism-Leninism correctly in these situations. This congress elected the administrative committee most democratically under [democratic] centralism. The new administrative committee has increased its members. It consists of comrades of the old central committee who are the old timers, who passed the tests a long time ago, and who have studied leadership. There also are young and active comrades who have energy and intelligence, and who have all studied mid-level and high-level political theories of Marxism-Leninism, and have been through two periods of revolutionary training."

"This time the congress was carried out for internal purposes as well as to gracefully show the solidarity, high unity, and the great joy in a serious atmosphere. This mutual solidarity has made the relationship between the party and people of other levels. All levels can see clearly that the party not only has characteristics of social class but also of nationality.

The preparations as well as the proceedings of the congress are an important step toward improving political ideology, organization, guidance and implementation, being able to mobilize all forces, expanding collective forces, making people and organizations become responsible proprietors, increasing their efficiency and self confidence, and [providing them] knowledge of techniques to progress in their work."

"The Third Congress of our party was gloriously and peacefully opened in the nation's capital as normally. This indicates our party's supreme ability to select, separate, and assess the enemies' and our situations. This has promoted our party's power in terms of our nation, other nations, and our

enemies. It indicates that our party has a close relationship with the masses and has confidence in the people's ability, especially the people in the capital. All the people as well as our allies believe in the party's growth, and clearly see our position and revolutionary power, and judge our party to be a strong Marxist-Leninist party.

Thus, we show our solidarity and strong support toward our party's revolutionary policy, the solidarity forces of the three nations in Indochina, and the continual and strong solidarity forces between Laos and the USSR and other countries, and the power support of the nations that are revolutionizing for world peace.

These are all old basic elements for all parties, armies and people of all races to decide in implementing the plenum of this congress in order to succeed in their responsibility to protect and build a socialist country and to participate in the fight for peace and independence of the democratic and socialist countries of the world."

9884

CSO: 4206/69

MALDIVES

BRIEFS

LINKS WITH SRI LANKA--Mr Ahmed Abdulla, the Maldivian Charge d'Affaires in Colombo, yesterday expressed his country's firm commitment to further strengthen relationship between Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Mr Abdullah's statement, made on the 17th anniversary of Maldives Independence which is being celebrated today, stressed the closeness of traditional relations between his country and Sri Lanka. He said that President Jayewardene and President Gayoom had met many times, sharing a common understanding and conviction on the need to further "our friendship." He quoted President Gayoom saying: "Relations between the Maldives and Sri Lanka are better today than ever before. We have a special relationship with Sri Lanka which is our closest neighbour." [Text] [Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 26 Jul 82 p 10]

MINICOY ISLAND CLAIMED--The Republic of Maldives on Monday made a formal claim for the Island on Minicoy, 70 miles north of its capital of Male. Its President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, in an address to the nation to mark the country's independence day said that the island lying about 70 miles north of Male was Maldivian territory. He, however, did not name Minicoy in the address which his countrymen as well as Colombo based diplomats taking part in the ceremonies heard. Minicoy is currently administered by the Indian Government. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 28 Jul 82 p 1]

CSO: 4220/292

GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF LOSING DIRECTION

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 21 Jul 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] Four former prime ministers and one exchairman of the Rastriya Panchayat in a joint statement issued here yesterday alleged that the programmes launched in the country by persons holding high posts designed to ensure the welfare of the country, Crown and the system as well as by the related institutions, were inadequate and ineffective.

Those issuing the statement are former prime ministers Matrika Prasad Koirala, Dr Tulsi Giri, Kirtinidhi Bista and Nagendra Prasad Rijal and exchairman of the Rastriya Panchayat Rajeswor Prasad Devkota.

Why is it that dissatisfaction, disillusionment and stagnation, instead of an atmosphere of enthusiasm and encouragement, has emerged on the national scene today, notwithstanding all the foundations of democracy graciously granted by His Majesty the King to the people, the joint statement asked and said the need of the hour for all the Nepali people and the dedicated pancha community therefore was to look into the causes of the problems and find out ways to resolve them.

Pointing out that His Majesty's Government was losing the sense of purpose and direction day by day, the statement said while the national economy was without foundation and objectives, the budget had lost credibility and the national education policy had been crippled.

Likewise HMG had proved to be incompetent and disqualified in consolidating the basic tenets of the country's foreign policy, the statement added.

Noting that corruption which was widespread at almost all levels of society had adversely affected the national character itself, the statement said it was felt that proper guidance should be given not only to rid the panchayats of the clutches of bureaucracy, but also to allow them to function on their own strength.

Dearness, artificial scarcity and black marketing encouraged by the administration were creating a situation leading to mental anarchy in the country, the statement added.--RSS

CSO: 4220/292

EDITORIAL ATTACKS INEPT GOVERNMENT

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 12 Aug 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Bold Measures Needed"]

[Text]

It is a fact established beyond doubt that the administrative machinery of the country is crippled and incapacitated. And this is so mainly because of the fact that the top administrative officials and politicians holding power are badly involved in irregular practices. The scandals in which they are alleged to have been involved as pointed out by some of the members of the Rastriya Panchayat are too many to be recounted. The entire administrative machinery is badly diseased and the remedy lies in finding out the root cause with sincere efforts to eradicate it. And who is willing to do it?

Those who are responsible for the dilapidated condition of the country's administrative machinery are the politicians in power. And if politicians can abuse their power, it becomes difficult for the civil servants to restrain themselves from following the example. In fact they are bound to follow the politicians because that is the only way to shield themselves from the fury of unpredictable politicians who are

capable of going to any extent to protect their own interests.

When honesty and integrity do not help one, there is no reason why one should care for these qualities. Transfer, promotion and appointment in lucrative posts do not depend upon the merit and performance but upon the kind of connections one has. This was in fact the gist of views of most of the members who spoke about the existing state of the administrative machinery of the country. The people in general have no faith in the administration because they know that it does not exist to alleviate their grievances. All that the administration can do is to aggravate the difficulties of the people. And so it is futile to talk about making the administration people and development oriented. One can keep talking about it but this is one of the many things which is not going to happen in the near future. Bold and drastic political measures are needed to salvage the country from the chronic disease.

LAND REFORM TERMED A FACADE

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 12 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

The revolutionary land reform programme introduced by His late Majesty King Mahendra, having now lost its original fervour and dynamism, is today a mere facade of unfulfilled promise, Gopalji Jung Shaha told the R. P. Finance Committee Tuesday during appropriation debate concerning the Ministry of Land Reforms.

Shaha further said that it was a matter of great regret that the resolution relating to tenants' right as adopted at the Pancha convention had not been put into practice, nor, he added, the government responsible to the people was taking right decision in this regard. He wondered if it was the way the country would be led. Nepalis as a whole would suffer

even though individual might gain in certain cases.

Questioning the wisdom of lie-telling, Shaha asked why the minister concerned felt the compulsion of setting the deadline for distribution of above-the-ceiling land while in reality the target was never met. He also called for a system whereby the dual ownership of land was terminated forthwith.

Where is the assurance given some nine years ago that Sajha would supply from door to door essentials such as kerosene, salt, cooking oil and fertiliser, he asked, warning that the patience of Nepalis was rapidly thinning out. He demanded appropriate action as regards evolution of the practice of fulfilling the promises made in deeds not in words.

Arjun Narsing K.C. wondered aloud why the land reform programme ushered into Nepal in the form of a great economic innovation with the express object of eradicating undue exploitation in the country was today hardly heard of.

The member claimed that the tenants were faced with tremendous problem of mortgaging their tenancy right in order to get long-term loan and asked why the plan of expanding Sajha involvement beyond the land reform programme had not been implemented properly and speedily.

Equating the Sajha with a motherless disabled, K.C. said the employees did not have adequate facilities, adding that there was no alternative to developing Sajha as a national

institution. He said the deplorable practice of imposing things from above should be immediately done away with.

He suggested that the farmers be given loan on the strength of the land he had or was likely to receive and cited the issue of Guthi land in Nuwakot, his own district, where ownership certificates were yet to be distributed.

Tanka Prasad Dhakal said although the ministry concerned had shown higher expenses in the report, implying in a way that it had done more than what was expected of it, the percentage of land distributed to the landless was abysmally low—342 bighas out of the 4000 bighas which comes to about 9 percent. The statistics clearly proves,

he added, that the ministry has failed to attain its objectives, whatever they might have been.

Asking why the appropriation request this year has substantially dropped from 133 million rupees last year to 8.4 million rupees, the member reiterated the importance of Sajha and the role it could play in the development of the rural sector.

The fact that the ministry is pretty much confused is testified by the declining appropriation whereas the people would expect increased expenditure in the implementation of Sajha concept in the country, he argued and demanded firm action to resume the operations of suspended savings and to realise the outstanding or misused loans.

—RSS

GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO FACE FOOD CRISIS

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 12 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

Kathmandu, Aug. 11:

His Majesty's Government is prepared to face any consequences that might arise from crop failure due to the present uncertain climatic conditions, the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Supplies, Dr. Yadav Prasad Pant said today.

Dr. Pant's assurance came amid speculation that the failure of the monsoon this year might result in a serious food shortage in the Kingdom.

Talking to this reporter today Dr. Pant admitted that unreliable weather conditions be-spoke of an "impending food crisis". But the dimension of the problem was not as grave as is made out to be by some, he said.

He said that His Majes-

ty's Government already had a buffer stock 20,000 metric tonnes of rice which was a "good reserve" from Nepalese standards.

This apart, the Government has made all necessary arrangements for the early procurement of rice from farmers.

Besides this, a number of bilateral and multilateral donor agencies have been requested to provide His Majesty's Government with necessary assistance in food grains.

In view of the possible food grain crisis, His Majesty's Government will not export rice to any country without adequately meeting national requirements.

On the present rise in prices of the essential commodities, specially that of rice, the supply minister said it could be attributed to the "speculative" behaviour of suppliers and traders.

EDITORIAL ALARMED BY FOOD CRISIS

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 31 Jul 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Crisis Situation"]

[Text]

Whether we like it or not, we will be facing a serious food crisis in the months ahead. In fact, its impact has already begun to be felt. Rice has not only been scarce in the market, but also has an all time high price tag on it. The government has done little more than to pay lip service for price stabilisation. The voice raised by the members at the Rastriya Panchayat against the unnatural hike too has proved to be a cry in the wilderness. Then came the delayed monsoon compounding an already serious problem facing the people on the one hand while giving the government an alibi to put all the blames for the shortage on the other.

Agriculture production of the country is still dependant on the vagaries of

nature. This in itself is a sad commentary on the more than two decades long planned development of the country. It also reduces to naught the government's tall claims for having laid the infrastucture of the development in general and creation of irrigation facilities in the country during the period in particular. While the need to pay serious attention to this front can hardly be overemphasised, the government should take some convincing steps immediately to deal with the impending crisis situation. It should seek assistance from outside, if the need be, and mount a vigil against the machinations of the business community which is largely responsible for the current price rise.

CSO: 4220/292

NEPAL

BRIEFS

IRAQI ENVOY APPOINTMENT--Adnan Jameel Mohammad al-Obaidi has been appointed ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Nepal. It is stated by the Foreign Ministry. Al-Obaidi resides in New Delhi. [BK201135 Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 9 Aug 82 p 1]

CSO: 4220/325

NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

NEW ARMORED VEHICLES--The first four Scorpion light reconnaissance vehicles rolled off the Alvis factory's assembly line in England recently. The Scorpions, replacing aging M-41 tanks, are the first of 26 vehicles ordered by the New Zealand Army. The four vehicles landed in Wellington in mid-June and will be ready for operational training at Waiouru Camp in early October. It is expected that the last of the 26 Scorpions will arrive in New Zealand in July next year.
[Text] [Kuala Lumpur ASIAN DEFENSE JOURNAL in English Aug 82 p 100]

CSO: 4220/295

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

WALI-BEGUM BHUTTO UNDERSTANDING--It has been known through extremely reliable sources that Khan Abdul Wali Khan and the high command of the Pakistan People's Party have come to a mutual understanding that Pakistan should be a secular state. According to these sources, this understanding has come about through the mediation of certain foreign elements who are well-wishers of both these groups and who think that an anti-religion sentiment will take hold in the country in future as a reaction to the Islamization efforts now, and at that time it will be possible to raise the slogan "Pakistan - A Secular State." Therefore, if and when elections of the former kind are held in the country, these two organizations will raise the issue of religion being a personal matter. [Text] [Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 23 Jul 82 p 4]

PIA AND FRUSTRATED POLITICIANS--Pakistan Government's intelligence agencies are receiving information that certain frustrated politicians (who are suspected of being foreign agents), after their repeated failures to organize demonstrations against the government, are heading for the Pakistan International Airlines. They are targetting PIA's several employee retrenchments in the past and are busy trying to create an atmosphere favorable for demonstrations (against the government). These frustrated politicians are also creating a scare among the employees of other government-run undertakings by claiming that, after the PIA, there would now be similar general dismissals of employees in those undertakings also. [Text] [Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 6 Aug 82 p 4]

ANTI-PAKISTAN CAMPAIGN--Tariq Ali, the Marxist son of the editor of (Pakistani) English weekly VIEWPOINT and veteran leftist journalist Mazhar Ali Khan, has intensified his efforts of spewing out poison against Pakistan and the Pakistani Government. These days Tariq Ali lives in London and writes a regular column for the Indian weekly SUNDAY. All of Ali's columns have been anti-Pakistan. One of his themes is that his father is sick and does not have proper facilities for treatment (in Pakistan). [Text] [Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 6 Aug 82 p 4]

CSO: 4203/176

COLUMNIST EXAMINES PDP-LABAN PARTY

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 19 Jul 82 p 4

[Article by Danny M. Gonzales: "The Group To Watch"]

[Text] Throughout the country, they're represented. I refer to the political party called PDP-LABAN. This may sound self-serving for this political columnist is identified with it. But, let the facts speak for themselves.

Biggest Crowd

There are several opposition groups in the country today. But among these groups, the PDP-LABAN counts with quite a following. Proof of this was the big crowd it gathered, from all over the country, during its national convention held at Club Filipino de Cebu. No other opposition political aggrupation was able to assemble such a number in recent months, and with big names, too!

Credible Leaders

Add to it the fact that this political aggrupation has credible leaders like Tanada, Rama, Pimentel, Jose, Guingona, and many, many others--its strength as a political party is one to reckon with. And the administration party, the KBL, is aware of this--just as the other opposition groups, genuine or token, are also aware of the same.

Most Organized

Among the many political groupings, the PDP-LABAN is the most well-organized nationally. For it has chapters all over the country. And each chapter is moving. And the membership is increasing by leaps and bounds. And the beauty of all this is that its campaign for members stabs deep into the grass roots. The kind of political base, all experts agree, that can make a party.

Active

And when it comes to activities, the PDP-LABAN is No 1. Among the opposition political groups, it counts with the most number of national conferences and rallies. And these activities were held in various places: Cebu, Manila, Davao, Bohol, and the latest--Bacolod. And more are still coming.

Seminars

But the most effective activity of the party, which worries most the Establishment, is its series of seminars it had been holding these past many months. Its momentum could no longer be stopped. And the number of people who have undergone this activity is now countless. As an example, Tente Quintero of Tacloban City--as of two months ago--had conducted more than 60 seminars. Seminars of similar nature have been conducted in Central Visayas, especially in Cebu and Bohol.

Most Active

But the most active group now among the PDP-LABAN regions is the Luzon group, especially the one at Metro Manila. Seminars are held weekly--and you could not believe the number of times this is being done, and how many join them. Not to be outdone are the PDP-LABAN members of Davao. Not just anybody can become a top-ranking official of, say, the city directorate. For one to become a member, he must have his own chapter.

Bears Watching

Thus, the PDP-LABAN bears watching. For so long a time, the opposition-inclined people in this republic--in light of their experience with opposition tokenship--were looking for a credible and strong opposition political group. This party, born out of the nation's desire to restore freedom and political sanity to this country, could well provide the answer. And the search for the true opposition will finally end.

CSO: 4220/294

MILITARY-CIVIL AUTHORITIES DISCUSS TANODS

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 6 Jul 82 pp 1, 2

[Article by Mike Yncino: "Tanods as Watchdogs"]

[Text] Top military officials from the PC-INP Regional Command met yesterday with municipal and city mayors and the provincial Governor at the provincial Capitol. The meeting was aimed at discussing the various problems of the local government officials in their respective areas.

Heading the panel of PC-INP officials from RECOM 7 was Brig General Alfredo Olano, RECOM 7 Commander with Lt Col Zosima L. Angan, Cebu Metrodiscom Commander and Lt Col Leandro Mendoza, Cebu Provincial Commander. Other officials of the PC-INP were also on hand to assist their superiors in the dialogue with the local government leaders here.

The conference initially discussed the various problems the local government leaders have especially those in the far flung barangays. Gen. Olano had given the go signal for the town mayors to have more control of local INP forces there. He authorized them to order operations by INP men under their direction whenever they find that the situation calls for such action.

The government leaders also agreed for better security measures to check on criminal and subversive activities in their areas. Gen. Olano also agreed with the local government officials on the activation of Ronda type operations by Barangay Tanods, who will be utilized as "watchdogs of the Barangays."

The RECOM 7 Commander envisions the barangay Tanods to be self-reliant enforcement teams who would be capable of checking the activities of lawless elements in their respective barangays. He also said that they have established a system in order that far flung barangays would be reached by police men and promised regular PC INP patrols in areas where they are needed. To assure that the patrols on the INP men would really visit the barangays, they are required to sign in the log book kept by the barangay captain of the area visited by them.

The Commanding General of RECOM 7 also asked the mayors and provincial government officials to intensify their campaign against marijuana and urge them to pursue the various development programs they have for the benefit of the people in their barangays.

In an interview with the VISAYAN HERALD, Gen Olano bared a plan which he is implementing to utilize every man in the PC INP for a more effective and efficient information network which would be needed in the current peace and order campaign in the province and cities of Cebu.

Olano also assured the public that they have almost completed a study on the peace and order condition obtaining in the province and Metro Cebu and that they will soon be ready with scientific plans to combat crime and subversion in the said areas. The PC brass also briefed the mayors and Governor Eduardo Gullas on the manner the rebels in Mindanao infiltrate a barangay to enable them to prevent similar incidents here.

CSO: 4220/294

COUNTRY'S NUTRITION PROBLEMS EXAMINED

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 6 Jul 82 p 5

[Article by Mon Alberica: "Nutrition Woes"]

[Text] Now is July. Now is Nutrition month in the Philippines. Now will remind us that some 80 Filipinos per one hundred are victims of various forms of undernutrition. Now will remind us of the high cost of foods. Now will remind us of the lack of money to buy nutritious foods. Now will remind us of the many families who can not eat three square "lugao" meals a day.

Today we are reminded that before the 70s we could buy salted fish (ginamos) at five centavos; we could buy a kilo of pork for less than ten pesos; a medium sized chicken below for five pesos; a kilo of fish for less than three pesos, lemonchito at 1/2 centavo per piece, mango for not more than 30 centavo apiece, small can of milk for less than 50 centavos per tin; a medium can of cooking oil for less than two pesos; candies at one centavo apiece, multivitamin pills at less than 25 centavos each and many more. Its your pleasre now to list and yearn for that glorious past. This space would not be enough if I will continue. Al A insug would not allow. [as published]

Today will remind us that the top food manufacturers and processors in the Philippines have for their major investor the foreigners. They produce milk, ice cream, yoghurt, coffee, chocolate, dressed chicken, canned fruits, hot dogs, multivitamins--products which are the daily fare for the wealthy and products designed for exports--not for the poor, not for the Filipinos.

All researches about nutritional intake showed that those who are in the lower socioeconomic status have lower intakes of vitamins, calories and minerals. With this we can say that the ratio of 80 per 100 Filipinos families compromising the poor of our country are taking low food intakes. Undernutrition stays if poverty will stay, undernutrition stays if social indiscrimination will stay.

We have now a program called "wealth redistribution." We have now also a program of "land redistribution." Can we have also a program of "food redistribution?" But wait, a word of caution. Please, do it not reversely. Like that of the wealth and land programs--wealth goes to the corporate wealthiest, lands go to the corporate landlords. We will commit further unforgivable error if the foods in this program will go only to the few already "overnourished" families.

CSO: 4220/294

PHILIPPINES

LEYTE OFFICIALS MEET RESIDENTS

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 10 Jul 82 pp 1, 2

[Article by Leo D. Fabular]

[Text] To counter insurgency in Southern Leyte, local government and military officials have gone into the different municipalities and barangays in the area to enlighten residents and to win them back to the side of the government.

Government Enlightenment Teams and Civic Actions groups were organized. Heading the campaigns are Provincial governor Salvacion Oppus Yniquez and Lt Col Jesus Almaden, Provincial Commander.

The civic action and enlightenment campaign, according to Yniquez, are concentrated in supposedly rebel-infested areas such as Hinunangan, Silago, Ananawan, St Bernard and Hinundayan.

The governor revealed that some 1,000 persons have renewed allegiance to the government only recently.

"We are all Filipinos," Gov. Yniquez said. "Why do we have to dissociate ourselves from one another?" she exclaimed.

"All other aggrupations have their own abuses and no one is freed," she declared. "Not even the church," she added.

"So why do we have to quarrel for the fault of only a few in the government?" the governor emphasized.

"I still have much faith on my people," she said. "I only hope that the migrants who come into our place won't destroy our peace...because our people here are peaceloving," she declared.

CSO: 4220/294

PHILIPPINES

PEOPLE URGED TO REPORT ABUSIVE SOLDIERS

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 10 Jul 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] Any PC/INP member or officer may be arrested by any member of the Barangay Tanod in case he makes illegal acts or commit any act of disrespect against any Barangay Tanod, in any barangay. This was expressed by Col Simeon Kempis, Recom 7 deputy regional commander, in answer to an inquiry of an out-of-school youth on the abuse and disrespect of some PC/INP members against Barangay Tanods.

Col. Simeon Kempis spoke before 200 out-of-school youth trainees attending the weekly KB-NMYC Youth Development Training at the NMYC Training Hall, this city.

Col Kempis, like a father of the out-of-school youths, stressed that the military men have vital mission not only to maintain peace and order but also to extend satisfactory service to the people instead of using their uniforms to threaten or exploit the very people whom they are serving.

Under the administration of Brig. Gen. Olano, Recom 7 Regional Commander, Col. Kempis said that it is Recom 7 primary program to make the rank-and-file of the PC/INP serve the people to the utmost and not to spoil the military image or military organization by certain abusive acts.

He said that Brig. Gen. Olano is very much concerned with abuses of military men and he is ready to file proper charges against them or to fire them from the service if found committing abuses.

Kempis in his appeal to the OSY's said that there were already PC/INP members who were demoted and fired for tarnishing the PC/INP image after due investigation.

He said that the OSY's can help the military by reporting to them any military abuses, including social problems like: drug addiction, gangwars, snatching, swindling, etc.

The military can not do anything without the cooperation of the civilians. Col Kempis said.

Col Kempis said that his office is always open to all out-of-school youth and the public for any assistance.

CSO: 4220/294

MULTISECTORAL MASS ACTION PLANNED

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 14 Jul 82 pp 1, 11

[Article by Leo D. Fabular]

[Text] A multi-sectoral group with the Pilipino Democratic Party (PDP) as prime mover is in the process of organizing a mass action to denounce military abuses and the salvaging of alleged NPA suspects in the mountain barangays of Cebu.

This was revealed yesterday by Ribomapil Holganza, deputy secretary general for the Visayas PDP.

Holganza in an interview with VISAYAN HERALD said that the exact time and date are still to be discussed by the organizing committee composed of representatives coming from the different groups. Residents of the mountain barangays, Holganza said, are to coordinate with the various organizations here involved in the preservation of human rights.

Should this be finalized, Holganza pointed out, "we expect to bring to the attention of our people atrocities committed by the military with complete documentations."

He said personalities of national prominence are to be invited. These personalities, he said "have always been in the forefront in the continuing struggle to uphold human rights in this country despite the tremendous constraints imposed on them by the Marcos dictatorship."

Also among the invited guests in the projected rally are the widows, orphans, parents and other relatives of the alleged salvaged victims.

It may be recalled that only recently several residents of the mountain barangays of Cebu have come to the city and sought the assistance of the local IBP, the media (specifically the Cebu Tri Media Association) and some opposition groups here such as the PDP and the UNIDO Central Visayas to help them in their plight.

These residents complained that informers in the area had been pin-pointing indiscriminately to just anybody as members of the dissident group.

However, these same people claimed that they have never seen any NPAs in the area.

CSO: 4220/294

CENTRAL BANK BORROWING PLANS FOR 1983 SET

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 18 Aug 82 p 10

[Article by George T. Nervez]

[Text]

THE Central Bank has sounded out foreign and domestic financial institutions for a jumbo loan for its consolidated foreign borrowing program next year.

Banking industry sources disclosed that the CB has indicated interest for a jumbo loan of about \$300 million to be syndicated later this year.

According to CB Gov. Jaime C. Laya the CB has completed its borrowing program for 1982 with a jumbo loan worth \$325 million last February.

PRELIMINARY talks with prospective leaders are usually started this year so that the syndication and signing are completed in the early part of 1983.

Earlier, the CB said that a total of \$151.2 million is still available for lending from its consolidated foreign borrowings. The amount is part of the \$325-million jumbo loan tapped early this year and the balance of previous borrowings.

So far, the CB has tapped \$1.966 billion for its consolidated borrowing program since 1978 when the program was started. Previous jumbo loans were \$414 million in 1978, \$481.2 million in 1979, \$396 million in 1980 and \$350 million in 1981.

The CB said that a total of \$1.815-billion worth of the foreign borrowings had been committed as of June 30, 1982, but \$240.7 million remained undrawn.

CSO: 4220/314

VIRATA BACKS BLOCK VOTING

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Cesar E.A. Virata yesterday expressed full support to the continued adoption of block-voting in future elections, saying that this "is in line with our present parliamentary system" of government.

Virata, who is chairman of the executive committee that takes over the reins of government in case the President is incapacitated or dies, said that under "our parliamentary form of government, the party in power is responsible for the conduct of state affairs."

He said block-voting is in conformity with this concept as it "requires the selection of political parties containing the lists of their respective candidates rather than the individual candidates" during elections.

BESIDES, he added, the block-voting system is not only important but also beneficial "in our present system of government" as it "induces or encourages disunited opposition parties to unite and present a common front against rivals" during elections.

He expressed hopes that the opposition, who appears to be fragmented at present, will unite and solidify to have a strong two-party system which he said, is important in the democratic processes.

In this connection, Virata recalled

the merger of several opposition parties in the past which "became strong politically in later years and became ultimately the party in power."

Under the block-voting system, a voter just writes the name of a political party, association or group, containing the list of its candidates, instead of the names of registered candidates of any political party, in the ballot.

THE FULL endorsement of the block-voting system by Virata, who is the chairman of the Batasang Pambansa powerful steering committee, appeared to have dimmed the prospect of the assembly's approval of a newly-filed bill seeking to abolish block-voting.

Authored by Assemblyman Edelmiro A. Amante (NP, Agusan del Sur), Parliamentary Bill No. 2382, in effect, proposes to amend Presidential Decree 1296, otherwise known as the 1978 Election Code.

Amante said as a system, block-voting is "inherently and patently reprehensible to our electoral processes as it certainly opens the floodgates for election frauds, anomalies and violence."

He said that since block-voting limits the choice of the voter, the true will and sentiment of the people would be impossible to ascertain. (PNA)

DEFECTION OF PRIESTS DENIED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

NUEVA VIZ-
CAYA Bishop Alber-
to van Overbeke,
CICM, has disputed
reports that two of
his parish priests
have been arrested.

This was learned
yesterday from
Jaime L. Cardinal
Sin, archbishop of
Manila, who said
that Overbeke had
contacted him
through the CICM
Provincial House in
Quezon City, to give
the lie, he said, to
reports that two
priests had been
arrested by military
intelligence men
with subversive ma-
terials in their pos-
session.

Cardinal Sin said
that Overbeke had
admitted that two of
his catechists were
under investigation.

The clarification
was issued after reports
were published that the
parish priest of Villa-
verde and of Diffun in
Quirino subprovince
had been picked up.

CSO: 4220/314

IMELDA SEEKS KKK FUNDING

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Aug 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

HUMAN Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos sought yesterday an increase in the appropriations for the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran from P1 billion to P3 or P4 billion.

In making the proposal to the Executive Committee, the First Lady pointed out that an increase in KKK funds would provide for 700,000 new jobs.

She said that with only P1 billion allotted to it, the KKK has provided jobs for some 180,000 individuals.

* * *

IN HER MEETING with media representatives the other night, the First Lady proposed the development of the Philippines as a trading center because of its strategic position.

She said that export products from Asia, including China, intended for the West could be traded in the Philippines.

She also urged the development of new uses for Philippine exports suffering from low prices in the world market such as copra and sugar.

THE FIRST LADY said the increase in KKK funds will help balance the large and medium-scale

industries with the 11 major industries launched by the government.

Increase in employment and in income will mean that the 50 million Filipinos will compose a potentially rich market for the products produced by the big industries.

THE FIRST LADY explained that although the Philippines has many friends, these countries will not buy Philippine products unless they need them. Actions of governments are based on national interest, she explained.

She called for a vigorous research program to develop other uses for plentiful products such as coconut and sugar.

Only the other day, the National Institute of Science and Technology and the National Science and Technology Authority demonstrated before the President an economical way of producing laundry soap using coconut oil as base, through what is called the "cold process."

The First Lady said that other products such as carbon for industrial filters from charcoal and food products from coconut oil can be produced. The coconut industry can also provide raw materials for a petrochemical plant, she added.

EDITORIAL URGES CAUTION IN ANTI-CRIME DRIVE

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Aug 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Caution in Drive Against Criminals"]

[Text]

IN A MEETING with representatives of mass media recently, the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, expressed her concern that without the proper safeguards, the fielding of secret marshals in the streets of Metro Manila might do more harm than good.

The main apprehension seems to be that in the campaign there is no absolute guarantee that law-enforcers assigned the task of going after holdupmen will act properly at all times. There might even be times when the innocent may get caught in the crossfire or themselves be victims of mistaken encounters.

The best course of action against the criminals, to be sure, is still to arrest and prosecute them under normally accepted judicial processes, thus the admonition that shooting — just to maim — should be resorted to only in the extreme.

What should be emphasized is that the fielding of secret marshals ought only to be a temporary arrangement with one exclusive purpose: To instill fear in the hearts of the lawless. Once this goal is achieved, the marshals should be withdrawn and the task of waging the anti-crime war given back to the police forces.

So far, there has been no public outcry against the secret marshals, due perhaps to the prevailing sentiment that law-enforcement agencies have done too little in the past to go after criminals.

The lesson here is for the police forces to act more effectively in maintaining peace and order in their respective areas of responsibility. And as an adjunct to the present drive, the courts should try to dispose of cases with dispatch. Perhaps speedy justice will, in the long run, serve as a better deterrent to crime.

CSO: 4220/314

COCONUT TRADE THREATENED BY PALM OIL

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 9 Aug 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Cesar E. A. Virata said yesterday that the government would intensify its coco-chemical research in view of threats to the industry by a new competitor and the slump in world market prices of coconut oil.

Virata said that a neighboring country had developed a new technology to extract oil from palm similar to the coconut by-product and is expected to hit the market in three years' time.

He told coconut planters and barangay captains gathered in Lucena City that palm growers in Malaysia would soon market kernel palm oil which could aggravate the woes of the coconut industry.

INDUSTRY *** sources said that Malaysian palm grows and matures faster than our coconut trees in the Philippines.

"This is one reason the government is intensifying research to find other uses for coconut oil to cushion the impact from its new competitor," Virata said.

He said that a coco-chemical plant is now in full operation in Cagayan de Oro City and another one will be constructed in Batangas.

Virata recalled that during the

war, some industries were kept running by coconut oil despite the shortage of petroleum.

VIRATA *** assured them that road-building and the construction of a fishport will be among the government's top priority concerns for the province.

He said that funds for road construction have already been earmarked for some areas and that the construction of a fishport would be resumed as soon as prices of construction materials go down.

Virata said that the fishport construction in Quezon was stopped because of the relatively high cost it had entailed compared to other projects.

He likewise asked coconut farmers to organize a new corporation in lieu of those abolished by President Marcos.

"You only have to go to the Securities and Exchange Commission to register the new corporation and avail of the funds left over by the abolished entities," Virata said.

He said that more than P100 million is available for use by a new corporation for the coconut industry which are held in trust by the Development Bank of the Philippines.

OIL BILL DOWN, COCO-DIESEL PLAN ON

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 18 Aug 82 pp 10, 9

[Article by Rosario Liquicia]

[Text]

THE Cabinet yesterday approved the implementation next month of the coco-diesel program after the Philippine National Oil Co. and the United Coconut Oil Mills (Unicom) agreed to a compromise pricing policy.

Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco, who also heads PNOC, said Unicom agreed to sell coconut oil to PNOC at 21 cents a pound, lower than the 24 cents it had sought earlier. The new selling price will translate to P2.72/liter of coconut oil (ex-plant or 10 centavos more when delivered). When blended with diesel, the coco-diesel mix will still

cost P3.11 a liter, the same price of pure diesel fuel.

The program was supposed to have been implemented last Aug. 1 but was deferred pending the formulation of a new pricing policy. The old pricing formula was unacceptable to Prime Minister Cesar Virata.

Virata rejected Unicom's proposal to sell coconut oil at 24 cents per pound when the commodity's price in the world market has gone down to 19 cents per lb.

UNDER the previous arrangement, Unicom was to sell coconut oil at 24 cents

per lb which would translate to P3.01 a liter. Oil firms, however, said they can only buy coconut oil at P2.72 per liter (ex-plant) to be able to maintain the P3.11 selling price for diesel oil.

The PNOC, therefore, agreed to shoulder the balance of P3.01 and P2.72 just to keep the program going. It would have cost PNOC about P19-million to subsidize the program on a yearly basis.

The new selling price of Unicom, Velasco said, will still enable the coconut oil company to make a profit.

considering that the price of the commodity has gone below the 20 cents per pound level.

He said the coco-diesel program will be a continuing program and not just a contingency schemes.

Coco-diesel is a blend of five percent coconut oil and 95 percent diesel fuel. The program is envisioned to help the local coconut industry by creating a new market for it as an automotive fuel.

At the same time, its use is intended to lessen the country's dependence on high-priced imported fuel.

MEANWHILE, Velasco said yesterday the country's oil import bill for 1982 will amount to \$2.15 billion, or 15 percent less than last year's oil bill.

The drop in the country's oil consumption and the decline in the country's inventory of crude as well as refined petroleum products will account for the lower import bill, Velasco explained.

For the first six months of the year, total energy consumption was 32.6 million barrels compared to 33.46 million barrels last year.

CSO: 4220/314

PHILIPPINES

NATURAL GAS FROM PALAWAN OIL WELL

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 15 Aug 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] Tests conducted by a consortium of oil-prospecting firms have indicated another natural gas find in the country.

The Linapacan 1A well off Palawan being drilled by the Northwest Palawan Consortium was reported yesterday to have flowed natural gas at a rate of 4 617 million cubic feet per day.

Reports from the drill site also indicated traces of heavy oil which could not freely flow to the surface unless aided by special oil recovery equipment.

The Linapacan well which was earlier touted as another possible oil find is the third natural gas find after Kalayaan in Reed Bank and the San Antonio 1 in Isabela.

Sources said that the consortium has already decided to drill another well, the Linapacan B1, about 5 kilometers from the first well to determine the volume of natural gas in the area.

The second and confirmatory well will be drilled by the jack-up rig Apollo I at a total depth of about 5,000 feet, it was added.

The sources further said that the Linapacan area will be developed if it is found to contain natural gas in commercial quantities.

The sources further said that the presence of hydro-carbon in the Linapacan well somehow bolsters earlier belief that the area is part of a contiguous oil province.

Linapacan well lies 15 miles from Galoc oil discovery and 27 miles northeast of the Matinloc oil production complex.

Aside from the Philippine Cities Services the consortium is composed of Musky Oil Philippines, Philodrill, Oriental Petroleum, Basic Petroleum and Landoil Resources.

CSO: 4220/314

FIREARMS FOR BARANGAY BRIGADES

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 15 Aug 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

PRESIDENT MARCOS directed yesterday mayors in critical areas to organize and arm barangay brigades to protect their communities from the activities of subversives and terrorists.

The President gave the order during his meeting with Region II officials Friday night in Malacanang.

While the present subversive activities of the New People's Army is "not enough to warrant fear, the President told local officials to coordinate their activities with the military to contain the threat coming from terrorists and bandits.

"We will help and protect the people and if necessary arm them," the President stressed, "to make the countryside safer for the citizens."

ACCORDING to the President, the Communist Party of the Philippines, which now has the support of the so-called Subversive United Front, is beginning to resurrect after the arrest of most of its leaders.

He said, however, that although the CPP has succeeded in bringing in about 50 firearms, there is no cause for alarm.

The President said the NPAs have been trying to coerce local officials into supporting them but these activities are not as serious as in 1972.

TO HELP PROTECT themselves from bandits and terrorists, the President also directed holders of unregistered guns to register them. The owners will be allowed to keep their firearms under the guarantee of the mayors and provincial governors. The owners will be trained on how to use them.

The President emphasized that the local officials are the leaders in the countryside and that he is depending on them to make the communities safe for the people.

From now on, he said, the mayors will be the political action officers in their municipalities. He instructed them to be more active and "don't wait for the President to call you."

HE SAID he wanted to see greater cooperation between the military and the civil authorities, pointing out that the military men are there to help and protect the civilians.

During his meeting with Region II officials, the President approved the construction of a number of infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges and others to improve the living conditions of the people.

BREAKAWAY MNLF UNITS SOW TERROR

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 16 Aug 82 pp 1, 7

[Article by Mel Parale]

[Text]

MARAWI, Lanao del Sur — Several splinter groups of the Moro National Liberation Front have been operating independently of the mother organization to carry out ambushes, kidnap-for-ransom, extortion and other terrorist acts in Mindanao and Sulu, intelligence information revealed yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Josephus Ramas, Army commanding general, directed army units in Mindanao to devise new strategies to protect civilians after getting a feedback on the terrorist bands composed of four to five members each.

Ramas, who had been adopted by the Muslim community with the rank of Datu in festive rites at the Mindanao State University, came here to inspect army facilities and to keep tab of the army's anti-terrorist operation.

BRIG. GEN. Jose Magno, Cencom commander, informed Ramas that the army can handle problems posed by the MNLF lost commands. Details of the counter-operation were withheld.

Col. Mariano Adalem, commander of the Army 3rd brigade of the 4th infantry division stationed here, told visiting newsmen that three

kidnap-for-ransom cases in the region recently were suspected to have been committed by MNLF "lost commands." Three of the armed bands operating were identified as the Katakataka group, the Tunda (pulling away) group, and one operating under a certain Commander Cabs.

Among their victims was a certain Henry Dalitia, who was kidnaped last July 22; a physician identified as Dr. Federico Quintas of Iligan; and one Patrick Wineger, son of the manager of the BF Goodrich Rubber Plantation in Mindanao.

EXCEPT for Dalitia, the other kidnap victims have remained unrecovered.

Kidnapers of Wineger were reported demanding P1,500,000 for his release, while those of Quintas were reported asking for P50,000.

Wineger was forcibly taken by four or five unidentified armed men last July 2 and his whereabouts have remained a mystery. His family refused to talk about the reported ransom demand.

On Ramas' order, army commands in the region put up mobile checkpoints to neutralize the movement of MNLF "lost commands."

SOLDIERS KILLED IN AMBUSH

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 17 Aug 82 pp 1, 3

[Text] A constabulary officer and four soldiers were massacred by heavily armed men believed to be members of rebel liquidation squads operating in Mindanao.

The troopers were surrounded by the attackers while on patrol at dawn the other day in the remote barangay Casorua, Monkayo, Davao del Norte.

The victims were identified only through their surnames as 1st Lt Duran, constables Raymundo, Magallano, Sobrevilla and CHDF Gruevo, all attached to the 459th PC Company in Davao del Norte. They died on the spot.

It was the biggest number of casualty on the government side in encounters with rebels in recent months.

The guns and supplies of the slain soldiers were believed taken by the attackers.

Davao del Norte constabulary men pursued the attackers but failed to find them.

An investigation was ordered on how the patrol, which was armed with high-powered guns and well-trained in jungle warfare, failed to fire back.

BACOLOD City--Elements of Task Force Kanlaon and local policemen killed seven members of the New People's Army and captured five others in several gunbattles Saturday in Hinobaan, Negros Occidental.

One of those captured, Ricardo Servando, alias Kumander Toto, was identified as head of the Communist Party of the Philippines education department for Southern Negros Occidental. He was seriously wounded.

Four of the captured NPA members were women. They were Maria Cecilia Flores, Teresita Sangasin, alias "Gina," Susana Espanola, and an unidentified girl.

Only three of the seven slain dissidents were identified. They were Quirico F. Dalmacio, Julieta V. Dalmacio alias July and a certain Ka Gerry, reportedly second in command to the overall head, Commander Reynante.

The first skirmish occurred at 6 a.m. Saturday in barangay Tugas. Troopers of the 325th PC Company and Hinobaan policemen killed two of the dissidents.

At 8 a.m. another team killed two more dissidents recovered a revolver and a pistolized shotgun. The second team caught up with Reynante's fleeing group in Tugas and killed three more--the two Dalmacios and Ka Gerry.

In a separate encounter, Espanola was captured. Seized from her were a .22 caliber revolver, a pistolized shotgun with bullets and subversive documents.

In the last skirmish at noon government forces caught up with Servando and July's group at Cayaban river near Barangay Maatop.

They captured the wounded Servando and the women. They also confiscated from them a Carbine, a shotgun and a .22 caliber revolver. Troopers also recovered a typewriter, acupuncture sets and subversive materials and books. (PNA)

CSO: 4220/314

BRIEFS

SUPERSTITIOUS PRACTICES OF PRESIDENT--What's stopping the progress of this country? There are several factors. One is the dearth of honest and sincere leaders. The other factor, which has bearing on the first, is rampant graft and corruption. A third factor is the fact that many Filipinos are superstitious. Even Pres. Marcos himself is known to be a superstitious man, and one who collects amulets--to say nothing of his indulging in mystical practices. Aside from numerology, Mr President is said to be consulting seers and listening to their advice to the extent of basing his decisions on what they allegedly see in advance. [Excerpts] [Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 8 Jul 82 p 4]

MILITARY SHIFTS TO CIVIC ACTION--Kidapawan, North Cotabato (PNA)--North Cotabato has become a show-window of the government's successful pacification and reconciliation thrust in Mindanao. Col. Cesar Tapia of the 2d brigade, Central Mindanao command, attested to this fact during the peace and order council session held Wednesday at the Provincial Capitol here. "Subversion has ceased to be a threat, so much so that the military has shifted its attention to civic action projects and in assisting in developing communities, he said. On the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Tapia said that it no longer poses much of a threat similar to that of the New People's Army. The provincial PC/INP command, during the same meeting, showed statistics to back up the favorable peace and order conditions in the province. Lt Winston Ebersole said that there are only about 40 to 45 crimes committed in North Cotabato every month. This represents an average of 1.5 crimes for every 500,000 people, he said. "This is much, lower than the statistics of Metro Manila where two crimes are committed for every 100,000 persons," Ebersole added. [Text] [Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 10-11 Jul 82 p 3]

DOMESTIC RIFLE, SUBMACHINEGUN--Manila, 8 Aug--The Philippine Armed Forces Armoury Research Centre has come up with an all-Filipino rifle and submachine gun which are expected to "revolutionize" the country's weaponry system. Armed Forces Chief of Staff announced the development of the two new weapons which, he said, could fire more than 900 rounds per minute when subjected to tests and evaluation. A Press statement said the submachine gun was found to be lighter and more handy than the US-made counterpart and suited for commando and special forces operations. The same research centre came up earlier with a "baby Armalite" rifle whose fire power was 650 rounds per minute. According to the statement, the development of Philippine-designed weapons since 1974 enabled the Armed Forces to save about 500 million pesos (about 49 million dollars) which would have been spent in importing firearms.--NAB/AFP [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 10 Aug 82 p 3]

AMENDMENT PROPOSED ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 24 Jul 82 pp 1, 3

[Article by Ravindran Casinader: "Only Elected Presidents Can Seek Reelection After Four Years"]

[Text]

Only a President elected by the people can seek reelection after completion of four years of his six year term of office, according to a proposed amendment to the Constitution which also says, A President elected by Parliament to serve the remaining term of a former President, who had either died in office or resigned shall not be entitled to exercise this right.

The proposed amendment, cited as the 'Third Amendment to the Constitution' was gazetted by Government on Thursday night.

The new amendment has fuelled speculation among political circles that President J.R. Jayewardene, who has already completed four years of his term might call Presidential elections this year before holding parliamentary general elections.

President Jayewardene was elected as Prime Minister by the people at the 1977 general elections. However, he may be considered 'Elected President' by virtue of Article 160 which says:-

'Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other provision of the Constitution, the person holding the office of President immediately before the announcement of the Constitution shall be the first President under the Constitution and shall be

deemed for all purposes to have been elected as the President of the Republic and shall hold office for a period of six years from February 4, 1978'.

Under the new amendment, the President in office may, at any time after the expiration of four years of his Presidential term of office, 'by proclamation, declare his intention of appealing to the people for a mandate to hold office, by election, for a further term' upon the making of which proclamation, the Elections Commissioner 'shall be required to take a poll for the election of the President'.

However, if the incumbent President dies any time between the date of such Proclamation and the close of the Presidential polls, such proclamation shall be deemed to have been revoked and the elections deemed to have been cancelled.

Such vacancy that will arise in the office of the President shall be then filled in accordance with Article 40 of the Constitution which provides for Parliament to elect a President to complete the remaining term of the former President.

However, if that remaining term is over four years, and the new President desires to seek re-election before completing his term, he shall not be entitled to do so under the amendment.

The third amendment also says that the death of a Presidential candidate before the results are announced shall not prevent the Elections Commissioner from proceeding with the count and declaring the results of such elections.

On the other hand, if the person entitled to be declared elected as President is dead at the time of the declaration of such election, the Elections Commissioner shall not declare the results but shall hold fresh elections.

If the Incumbent President is re-elected under the Third Amendment, he shall hold office for a term of six years commencing on such date in the year in which that election is held (being a date after such election) or in the succeeding year as corresponds to the date on which his first term of office commenced, whichever date is earlier.

If the person elected as the new President is not the Incumbent President, he shall hold office for a term of six years commencing on the date on which the result of such election is declared.

If a President-elect dies before he could assume office, the Elections Commissioner shall hold fresh Presidential Elections.

If, however, such fresh polls

are held on a date later than the date on which the previous President-Elect was supposed to assume office, the person who is elected as the new President at such fresh polls will be deemed to have already commenced his term on the date on which the previous President-Elect was to have assumed office.

Only in the case of a President wilfully failing to assume office within one month from the date of commencement of his term of office shall the new President-Elect commence his term of office on the date of his election.

An Incumbent President who is not re-elected shall cease to be President on the date on which the results of such elections are declared and the candidate elected as President shall assume office immediately, but not later than two weeks from such date. The out-going President shall continue to discharge his duties until the new President assumes office.

If, however, the President-Elect fails to assume office, the out-going President shall continue to function until the Prime Minister, failing which, the Speaker, commences acting as President until fresh Presidential elections are held.

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE MUST REPRESENT ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 2 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

The Communist Party, in a statement issued yesterday, said that a common Opposition candidate for the Presidential Election, even though he could personally belong to a party, should not be a candidate of any single party but a joint candidate commonly sponsored by a 'number of anti-UNP parties and other democratic forces'.

'While all anti-UNP parties naturally have the right to suggest whom they consider to be the most suitable candidate, they have also the responsibility through discussions to arrive at a consensus regarding the most suitable among suggestions made', the statement issued by the Secretary-General of the party Mr.K.P.Silva states:-

The CP statement says that there should be agreement on immediate issues accompanied by negotiations between the anti-UNP parties to select a single common candidate.

Some of the basic issues on which the opposition parties should seek agreement and attempt to secure the approval of the people suggested in the statement are:-

* Repealing the anti-democratic and anti-national features of the UNP's 1978 Constitution; * res-

toring the supremacy of Parliament and the former system of elections; and * Creating the necessary conditions for the holding of really free and fair elections to a new Parliament, which the people can choose democratically whom they want to represent them. This will involve, inter-alia, the abolition of all restrictions on the democratic process introduced in recent years and the restoration of the civic rights of all persons who have been deprived of them other than by the judgment of an established court of law or an election judge.

The statement adds:- While the Communist Party sees merit in some of the proposals made so far, it will, nevertheless, exert every effort and not spare any necessary sacrifice to assist agreement being reached on such consensus candidate who, in addition to defeating the UNP and creating the conditions for free and fair elections, will also implement some agreed measures of interim relief such as the reinstatement, with full arrears, of all strikers sacked in 1980 and the restoration of certain consumer and production subsidies.

CSO: 4220/290

SRI LANKA

PREMIER, FINANCE MINISTER SPEAK ON ELECTIONS

BK181251 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Aug 82

[Text] Prime Minister Premadasa says that the government will not postpone elections like what the previous government did. It is even prepared to hold general elections before the due date. Premadasa added that some 8 million voters have been registered and it is expected that at least 7 million of them would cast their votes. The prime minister also announced that it is hoped to hold the presidential elections soon. Arrangements are already under way to make provisions in the constitution for the election to be held before the due date. The prime minister was addressing the Colombo General United National Party [UNP] executive committee. He described the UNP as a party of the people, adding that certain political parties founded on the wishes of some individuals are already in fragmentation.

Speaking on the government's development policy, Premadasa said that 153,000 houses will be constructed before the government's term of office ended.

Finance and Planning Minister Ronald de Mel said that the government was in a position to face the general elections without any fear of a setback. Ronald de Mel said that the country was today going through an unprecedented development process; with the completion of the Mahaweli scheme, 1 million acres of new land will be cultivated; 500,000 peasant families will be settled in the area. The free trade zone was another successful venture launched by the government.

CSO: 4220/325

EDITORIAL CONDEMNS SENSELESS VIOLENCE

Colombo SUN in English 31 Jul 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Southern Fiasco"]

[Text] Senseless violence has erupted once again. This time the normally peaceful and staid south has been rudely shocked with ugly and bizarre acts of sectarian violence.

Innocent lives have been lost while a large number of people, some of them bystanders or good Samaritans, now lie in hospitals with serious injuries. Besides, private and public properties have been damaged in the process.

The clashes in Galle have placed the nation in a restive and tense mood while unruly 'shadows' stalk menacingly to create mischief and even commit murder.

The immediate action taken by the government to quell the riots in Galle is most commendable. The mobilisation of armed militia admittedly acted as a damper to the clashing factionalists. It was indeed heartening to see the Commander himself dousing the fires of a gutted

building with an extinguisher. But the fact that local authority in Galle lacked fire fighting equipment is lamentable.

The fiasco in Galle is something dangerously unique.

Just as much as the authorities are keen to prevent violence, it is imperative that a full scale investigation is made into the deplorable incidents. They should not be ignored as a residue of a common domestic brawl as most people try to make out.

It is also difficult to rule out any political undertones. The pattern of violence and the auspicious timing of it are most extraordinarily suspicious.

There is every reason for any political bankrupt elements to generate instability at a time when elections are gathering momentum. Besides, strife and instability in Lanka right now are viewed with much concern in foreign countries.

Every minor misdemeanour here gets

magnified on the world scene. And all that is detrimental not only to the good image of Lanka but also to its all important international economic co-operation within the comity of nations as well as foreign investment.

That is precisely why the politically oriented saboteurs would gain from these violent skirmishes.

So far the national media have acted with admirable restraint and responsibility. There is no reason why it should fail or falter.

The state must ensure that pipelines of information are kept open. It could act as a true deterrent against speculative rumour mongering and rabble-rousing: two by products of factional violence.

The anti-national elements should be hounded out and punished so that it will be a lesson to others who plan to wage satanic violence against their own fellow-men in order to achieve diabolic ends.

SOUTH KOREA JOINT VENTURE SUPPORT PROMISED

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 6 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

South Korea will co-operate fully in establishing joint ventures in Sri Lanka and also recruit labour from Sri Lanka for South Korean projects in the Middle East.

This assurance was given by the South Korean Prime Minister Kim Sang Hyup to Deputy Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando, who is now in South Korea on a week's official visit.

The South Korean Prime Minister also informed Mr. Fernando of the present situation in talks on Korean reunification.

Mr. Fernando referred to the increasing trade between the two countries with the trade balance heavily weighted in South Korea's favour. He suggested that this be off-set at least partly by increasing South

Korean investment in Sri Lanka and recruiting Sri Lankan personnel for Korean projects in Third World countries. He also informed the South Korean Prime Minister of his discussion on specific projects with leading industrialists in South Korea and the favourable response he had received from the private sector in that country. South Korean concerns have entered into two major contracts amounting to US \$960 million for projects in Iraq for which there was an immediate requirement of labour.

Mr. Fernando also had talks with Foreign Minister Lee Bum-Suk and Deputy Foreign Minister Roh Jae-Won.

Mr. Fernando referred to the dis-

cussions he had with the President of the Parliamentary Association and Members of the Sri Lanka-South Korea Business Co-operation Committee at which certain projects were identified as suitable for joint ventures. The Chairman of the committee has assured Mr. Fernando that a delegation from that committee would visit here in September to follow-up on these activities.

Mr. Fernando also had talks with the Korean Television Group which assured him that it was prepared to give training facilities for Sri Lankans and would send a team to Sri Lanka shortly to identify areas suitable for co-operation.

INCREASED INSURANCE PROTECTION FOR NORTHERN SECURITY PERSONNEL

Colombo SUN in English 2 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

Security precautions adopted after the killing of four policemen at Nelliady, have hampered police inquiries into conventional crime in the north.

While the shutters remain up on the seven Police stations that were closed following the attack on the Anaicottai station, Police officers in the remaining 16 do not venture out without adequate security cover.

The officers there have pointed out that even a routine inquiry requires a back-up of at least eight armed personnel to ensure the safety of the inquiring officers visiting a scene of crime.

According to a senior Police officer, the personnel needed to merely guard a police station results in a heavy draw on the available personnel.

The Police have also released a number of the officers serving in Jaffna for para-military training conducted by the Army at its camp at Elephant Pass.

At present, unless the crime is an homicide or a major hold-up, Police send out letters addressed to the suspects asking them to appear at the station, the officer stated. In the event of a major crime, at least two jeep loads of armed policemen and an additional Army escort arrive at the scene of the crime and take up defensive positions before any inquiry is made.

"We cannot expect the officers and men to go and offer themselves as targets", he added.

Among the major investigations suspended due to the present situation is the CID inquiry into the counterfeiting racket of the yellow hundred rupee note, which is believed to have its origins in the north.

CID investigators have discovered certain links between the Singapore concern which printed the notes and Sri Lankan collaborators in the northern peninsula. However they have not been able to proceed with their inquiries because of this situation.

Meanwhile the TULF hierarchy is expected to discuss the present situation with government authorities in the course of this week.

PROBE ON SEPARATIST FUNDS UNDERWAY

Colombo SUN in English 6 Aug 82 p 1.

[Article by Jennifer Henricus: "Where Did Monies Go?"]

[Text]

A Government probe is underway to ascertain how funds accrued from a tea sales campaign in Australia purportedly for the benefit of tea workers had been spent.

The move came as detailed investigations were underway into the activities of a social organisation said to have received large sums of money from these sales.

The Tea Board has sought the assistance of the Government Agent, Galle, and the Ministries of Finance and Planning and Social Services to ascertain for what purpose the large sums of money, which have been pouring over the last three years, had been used.

PAMPHLET WAR

According to investigations so far into the anti-national tea propaganda being conducted in Australia it has been revealed that the so-called "Action for World Development" organisation which promoted its tea sales through a pamphlet war with communal overtones, has been sending monies regularly through the local exporters to the social organisation.

The Government which is very concerned about this propaganda is trying to ascertain whether it is being utilised to fund separatist groups here.

The Tea Commissioner in Australia, Rodney Arambawella, meanwhile conducting investigations into the activities of the World Development Tea Co-operative which is responsible for the propaganda campaign.

Following the exclusive report in the 'WEEKEND' of July 18 headlined "Tea used as weapon to castigate Lanka", the World Development Tea Co-operative in a telex to 'SUN' claims that they campaign for the protection of human rights over the whole of Sri Lanka and has supported the drive for citizenship of stateless estate workers.

This the Co-operative claims is part of a drive towards a fairer system of world trade.

AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION IN SEPARATIST MOVEMENT PROBED

Colombo SUN in English 28 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Jennifer Henricus: "Probe on Aussie Link"]

[Text]

Lankan tea exporters found colluding with an Australian organisation raising funds through tea sales for a separatist group here will have their licences cancelled, Plantation Industries Minister Montague Jayawickrema warned yesterday.

The Minister's announcement came as Sri Lanka's Tea Commissioner in Australia, Rodney Arambewela, confirmed that a radical group, comprising mainly university students, was behind the sales efforts.

Their campaign spoke of sales proceeds being passed on to the plantation worker in Sri Lanka but no such thing was happening, Mr. Arambewela told 'SUN' on the telephone from Sydney.

Following Major Jayawickrema's directive for a full probe Plantation Industries Ministry officials have summoned three leading tea exporters for an inquiry today.

Among them is one concern which had previously dealt in household goods and has now expanded its activities to include tea and other exports. Its links with the Australian group are being probed in detail.

Ministry investigations have revealed that these three exporters are responsible for shipping nearly 40,000 kilograms of tea annually to an Australian organisation.

The inquiry will ascertain whether any exporters had a direct hand in this false propaganda campaign.

The campaign was exclusively reported in 'WEEKEND' of July 18, headlined "Tea used as a weapon to castigate Lanka".

Meanwhile the Government is working out a strategy with the Australian Government to help squash this propaganda which was threatening to ruin the country's market in Australia where there has been a distinct consumer preference for Sri Lanka tea.

Mr. Arambewela said yesterday that his investigations had also revealed that the organisation had strong links with certain organisations and individuals in Sri Lanka.

He said a similar campaign was also being carried out in New Zealand and that it was very serious especially in view of the fact that Sri Lanka was venturing into new markets both in Australia and New Zealand.

OPPOSITION BID FOR MERGER IN BALANCE

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 25 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

The attempt to field a common Opposition candidate at the forthcoming Presidential Election is now in the balance following the SLFP(M) and the LSSP announcing their candidates for the contest.

Indications now are that the contest may be a four-cornered one between the UNP, SLFP(M), SLFP(S) and the LSSP, while the possibility of the JVP entering the fray, too, cannot be discounted.

Political circles feel that the SLFP(M) had announced the candidature of its leader Mr. Maithripala Senanayake early (he was the first Opposition candidate to announce his candidature) because it wants to get the support of other parties for him to run as a common Opposition nominee, but this is unlikely in the face of the hostility shown by the SLFP(S) toward the Maithri group and the LSSP's decision last Friday to put forward its leader Dr. Colvin R. de Silva as a candidate.

But neither is Dr. de Silva likely to find favour among Opposition circles as the common candidate. Addressing the SLFP's All-Island Committee two Saturdays ago, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike discounted speculation that the SLFP would support Dr. de Silva as the common Opposition candidate. 'The party is not that bankrupt', she is reported to have said.

The LSSP is seeking the support of the Sri Lanka Communist Party for Dr. de Silva's candidature. The CP has still to make a public announcement about its stand on

the Presidential Election.

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, too, has not made up its mind still on a nominee. The party's official publication 'Niyamuwa' recently quoted party leader Rohana Wijeweera as saying that if the Opposition put forward a common candidate, the party would support him, but if the Opposition puts forward candidates separately, the JVP would even produce a candidate from its pocket and put him forward.

With a candidate from its ranks having the best chance of posing an effective challenge to the incumbent President, the SLFP(S) is faced with the problem of picking a suitable candidate. At the same All-Island Committee meeting, Mrs. Bandaranaike had said that a candidate would have to be picked in consultation with other Opposition parties, a large organisation like the Sinhala Bala Mandalaya and Mahanayake Theras. She had also said that the candidate should be a person who can win the support of sections of the UNP as well.

The likely candidates mentioned in SLFP circles are Messrs Anura Bandaranaike, Hector Kobbekaduwa, T.B. Illangaratne and Lakshman Jayakody. The names of two non-political figures, Mr. Victor T. Ennekoon the former Chief Justice and Prof. Ediriweera Sarachandra and President of the YMBA Mr. Siri Perera have also been discussed as possible compromise candidates by the SLFP.

EDITORIAL ATTACKS TAMIL EELAM

Colombo SUN in English 27 Jul 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Nedumaran's Lament"]

[Text]

Hot on the heels of the Tamil eelam convention in New York that ended in a veritable damp squib with a load of polemics, its Chairman Tamilnadu's Kamaraj Congress P. Nedumaran seems to have returned to Madras with a new vendetta against Sri Lanka.

This militant supporter of a separate state in Lanka has now called on the Union Government of Tamilnadu to intervene on behalf of the minority Tamils. He has even suggested that the Centre step in on their behalf and establish contact through the respective Foreign Ministers.

This man Nedumaran is obviously a dreamer. He probably thinks that Lanka is a part of India. He may sound rather naive in a strict geographic sense, but he certainly could cause political complications to the Lankan authorities through the unbridled interferences that is ap-

parently up his sleeve.

We learn that the New York Convention under his chairmanship spelt out a fifteen point programme — with a primary objective of immediate movement of Tamils from the South to the North and East of Lanka.

Nobody can find fault with a set of like-minded people holding deliberations on common affair that interests them. But the passage of resolutions which may be construed as interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state is most condemnable.

What Nedumaran and his colleagues did in calling for the setting up of the so called 'Government of Tamil Eelam' in Lanka is a blatant interference in the sovereignty of this country.

To make matters worse this champion of political chicanery has now urged his Tamilnadu Union Government to commit a far worse faux pas. But most

people on this side of the Palk Straits are hopeful that saner counsel would prevail and avoid an embarrassing fait accompli.

Yet, the government should not take these undiplomatic activities and vituperative utterances from militant aliens lightly. These agent provocateurs are indeed fanning ethnic unrest in this country. And whoever has any links with these people should be ashamed of themselves.

Pragmatic political leaders in the South and the North Lanka have already recognised the via media of settling the thorny ethnic problems. They have chosen the most practical way — through dialogue or the 'amity talks'. Even though the pace of progress is slow, it is certainly a safer and surer method of achieving a lasting solution.

The speedy 'solutions' worked out by aliens of Nedumaran's ilk could be akin to the proverbial Bull in a China shop.

FALSE TEA PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN INVESTIGATED

Colombo SUN in English 27 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Jennifer Henricus: "Tea Party To Malign Sri Lanka Down Under"]

[Text] Government yesterday called for a full investigation of a false tea propaganda campaign in Australia, which is suspected to be a cover for a fund-raising programme by separatist organisations in Sri Lanka.

The probe was called for by the Defence Ministry after preliminary investigations revealed that the money collected as "profits" by this Australian-based tea company had definitely not been passed on to the Sri Lankan plantation workers, as claimed by them.

The false propaganda campaign was exclusively reported in WEEKEND of July 18 headlined, "Tea used as weapon to castigate Lanka."

Preliminary investigations have also revealed that this propaganda campaign may be part of an international move by the separatist organisations to raise funds and simultaneously undermine the country's tea market. A similar campaign, which totally distorts the true picture in Sri Lanka, is also being carried out in Holland.

Government is also keeping close tabs on several organisations in London, the United States, Canada and Scandinavian countries. While a few have supported the radical movements in Sri Lanka, most of these organisations were found to have profited by taking advantage of the problems here. They have enhanced their own image and also lined their pockets claiming to be "the voice of the Freedom Fighters."

SUN learns that Cabinet views this anti-national propaganda with concern. At its meeting last week, Cabinet instructed the Minister of Plantation Industries to take necessary action. The Ministry has instructed the Tea Commissioner in Australia, Rodney Arambawela, to investigate the activities of the company, which is said to be part of the so-called "Action for World Development" movement.

A report on the matter was sent by the Sri Lanka High Commissioner in Canberra to the Ministry following a request made by the Government last week.

CSO: 4220/290

POLICE RESTRAINT IN NORTH

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 3 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

Police personnel in the North will be maintaining a low-key profile in discharging their duties in view of the security problem there, according to Police sources.

The Police will be conducting on-the-spot investigations only in the case of major offences and crimes. Complainants in respect of minor offences will be required to report to the nearest police station where statements will be recorded.

All evidence in this regard, too, would be recorded in this manner. Only in the case of grave offences will the Police visit the area of the crime and make inquiries.

Also, all foot patrols in the North are strictly out for Northern policemen. There would only be combined mobile patrols with the Army. A minimum of two vehicles will be part of a patrol with firearms mandatory for every policeman on patrol.

Meanwhile, the 9 police stations in the outlying areas of the

North that were shut down last year following the attack on the Annaicottai police station will not be re-opened.

Policemen on duty in the Northern range comprising Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu districts will be paid a special allowance of Rs.200. They will also get better welfare facilities as compared to other areas.

Policemen, including 12 sergeants and 7 sub-Inspectors are scheduled to be transferred from the North by this September.

CSO: 4220/290

RAIL DERAILMENT BELIEVED SABOTAGE

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 28 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Ranjan Joseph: "Batticaloa Train Derailment Was Sabotage"]

[Text]

Police and Railway investigators at the conclusion of their probe into the derailment on July 9, of the Batticaloa night mail train near Gal-Oya Railway Station have reported definite sabotage but ruled out the involvement of any employees of the Railway.

Six bolts which held together two fish-plates at one rail joint had been completely removed along with the fish-plates. Also it was found that seventeen dog-spikes which pin down the rail to the sleepers were wrenched out.

The probe-team has, meantime, reported to their respective higher authorities that they had traced a meeting place less than one mile away from the place of the train derailment, allegedly used frequently by a radical political group.

The derailment had occurred

around 2.30 am between the 120th and 140th mile posts between Palugaswewa and Gal-Oya. After getting derailed the two front wheels of the engine had gone across three hundred and fifty odd rail-sleepers before the train halted, and it has been thus estimated that the engine had traversed between ten to fifteen chains on the wooden sleepers.

The investigators have also reported that there had been a speed limit enforced along this stretch at twenty-five miles per hour, which according to their findings might have been slightly exceeded.

The General Manager of Railways Mr.G.P.S.Weerasooriya has

now introduced the operation of a trolley escort for all night mail trains between Colombo Fort, Jaffna, Batticaloa and Trincomalee.

The trolley is manned by armed Police and Railway Security personnel who precede the train movements between Palugaswewa and Gal-Oya. Night mail trains outward bound from Colombo have been instructed not to pass the Palugaswewa station until the security trolley has reported its arrival at Gal-Oya station and for train operations Colombo bound, the trolley must report first at Palugaswewa before trains leave Gal-Oya. This scheme is now in operation.

CSO: 4220/290

SLFP(S) LISTS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PREREQUISITES

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 1 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

The SLFP(S) has decided on five conditions on which it could support a common Opposition Candidate for the Presidential Election.

The five conditions are:-

- * To restore the civic rights of Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike the moment such a common candidate wins,
- * To dissolve Parliament immediately,
- * To form a National Government constituting all the parties which supported the Presidential nominee until the next elections are held,
- * To hold the General Elections on the election laws which prevailed in 1977,
- * To revise the Constitution after the General Elections.

Meanwhile, political sources say that there has been no unanimity on a common Opposition Candidate.

The LSSP has announced Dr. Colvin R. de Silva as its Presidential Candidate while the SLFP(M) candidate is Mr. Maithripala Senanayake.

According to SLFP sources, it has been more-or-less decided that Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwe, former Minister of Agriculture and Lands should be the party's candidate.

These sources say that Mr. Anura Bandaranaike who had been mentioned as a likely Presidential Candidate is being considered as shadow Prime Minister.

While the Central Committee of the LSSP recently decided to obtain the support of all Opposition Parties for Dr. de Silva's candidature, the Sri Lanka Communist Party has not made its official position known yet. However, the Communist Party speakers have been urging the need to put forward a common Opposition Candidate.

There is also speculation in SLFP circles whether Mrs. Bandaranaike would quit the post of party President. Some SLFPers, however, say that it would not happen as Mrs. Bandaranaike resigning from the post of Party President could result in rivalry within the party being aggravated.

CSO: 4220/290

NEW SECURITY PLAN FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 28 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Srimal Abeyewardene: "New Security To Cover DPL Missions"]

[Text]

The metropolitan police is now working on a new security plan to cover the 40 diplomatic missions based in Colombo more adequately than at present.

Although Sri Lanka has seen no major incidents of diplomats being attacked, police say that they must be alive to any possibility in the context of incidents that have occurred elsewhere.

A senior police source said that there had been contacts between the police and the foreign ministry about various aspects of the new security plan.

Basic information including the building plans of the various foreign embassies, addresses of residences of the different diplomatic officers etc. must be obtained.

The police want to organise themselves so that in the event of an incident a very quick response will be possi-

ble with various resources, including those of the area police station, are fully utilised.

The DIG (Metropolitan), Mr Edward Gunawardene, will be in charge of the operation assisted by Colombo's Police Commissioner Mahesan Selvaratnam and Senior Superintendent (Traffic) M. Shanmugam.

Some embassies in Colombo have their own security arrangements. The US Embassy here, like US missions in other parts of the world, is secured by a contingent of marines.

At least one other Colombo chancery has bullet-proof doors.

A guardhouse at the entrance to one embassy here had pictures of a group of notorious terrorists, who were nationals of that country, pasted on its walls so that any of them turning up at the embassy in Colombo could be identified.

ROLE OF ORGANIZED RELIGION IN POLITICS

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 25 Jul 82 p 6

[From "Island Politics" column by Arjuna: "Bala Mandalaya Still Doesn't Know Its Own Mind"]

[Text]

While political parties were pre-occupied with the Presidential Election and their choice of a nominee for this contest, the attack on the meeting of the Sinhala Bala Mandalaya on Wednesday brought the organisation back into the political lime-light.

But to begin with the Presidential Election, it was announced last week that the Government Parliamentary Group had approved a single amendment to the Constitution, viz: that a Presidential Election could precede a General Election. Astute observers of the political scene are of the opinion that although only a few weeks ago the Cabinet had approved several more amendments to the Constitution, only this amendment had been approved at this time because the Government knows that all sections of the community are in favour of an election and, therefore, the amendment would meet with their support. The President obviously expects to exploit the divisions in the Opposition to romp home at the Presidential poll and it is argued that if he does canter home it will be quite easy for him to introduce whatever changes he desires into the process of Government.

A Presidential poll means that the 5/6th majority in the House will remain and changes could legally be made in the Constitution.

The Presidential poll is still obviously in a premature stage, but there is no dearth of candidates. The Colombo political circuit is buzzing with names. Dr. Colvin R. de Silva is being canvassed as a common Opposition candidate although this has not met with SLFP approval. Another name that is mentioned is that of former Chief Justice but the objection to him is that he is hardly known outside Hultsdorp. The Sinhala Bala Mandalaya which has lately shot into prominence is also said to be toying with the idea of fielding a candidate.

Then, there is, of course, the JVP. The SLFP(M) has already announced that their candidate will be Maithripala Senanayake. The TULF will not contest.

The Rise of all types of religious and nationalist organisations on the eve of a General Election is not by any means a new phenomenon in the country's history. The report of the Buddhist Commission played a crucial role in the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna riding to power in 1956. In 1965, all kinds of Bikkhu organisations campaigned for the UNP and were able to bring the UNP to power on the crest of a campaign against the Press Bill. Thus, the appearance of the Sinhala Bala Mandalaya on the political horizon did not cause

any surprise. If at all what caused raised eye-brows was the fact that many leading figures of the Bala Mandalaya were known supporters of the UNP. The Ven. Maduluwawe Sobhitha, the Secretary of the Bala Mandalaya and Prof. T.B. Kangaarachchi, Vice Chancellor of the Sri Jayawardhanapura University were well known sympathisers of the UNP while persons like Ven. Labuduwe Siridhamma whose recent speech against President Jayewardene created a furore were known to be apolitical public figures.

What is the stand of the Bala Mandalaya? At an election what policy will it adopt? What are their slogans? All this still remains to be seen. The Bala Mandalaya appears to be composed of a heterogeneous collection of personalities most of whom were supporters of the UNP in their hey-day. In fact, in his now famous speech at Mihintale, the President said that the Government had given all support to the Bala Mandalaya. Then what brought the UNP and the Bala Mandalaya to 'the parting of the ways'? Was it Ven. Siridhamma's speech? Was it an isolated incident or did it represent Bala Mandalaya policy? Does the Bala Mandalaya, in fact, have a coherent policy? These are all questions which will engage the attention of the political observer.

From all accounts, the Sinhala Bala Mandalaya still does not appear to know its own mind. It vaguely perceives that the Sinhala Buddhist middle classes are labouring under a sense of grievance and are looking for a vehicle to atricilate their grievances, but if the Bala Mandalaya is to make an impact, it has to go beyond mere Sinhala Buddhist sentiment. It has to grasp the balance of political forces in the country. It has to evolve a policy and leadership. None of this has yet to be achieved.

It was in this climate that the meeting on Wednesday was held. Since the Labuduwe Siridhamma incident and the Getambe affair, the Bala Mandalaya had caught the eye of Sinhala Buddhist hardliners who saw in this resurgent chauvinism a handy vehicle for channelling the sentiments and resentments of vast sections of the middle classes. In fact, sections close to the SLFP had even been toying with the idea of using the Bala Mandalaya as a base for going back to Mr.S.W.R.D.Bandaranaike's original political platform and organisation - the Sinhala Maha Saba. Among the names that were considered as possible leaders were K.M.P.Rajaratne, Prof.W.S.Kularatne, J.R.P.Suriapperuma, Prof.T.B. Kangaharachchi, Harischandra Wijetunge and S.K.K.Sooriarachchi.

This was not a situation which the UNP could be happy about. The Bala Mandalaya might still not know its mind but the UNP knows in its inclinations and sympathies, it cannot but be hostile to it. Prof. Sarachchandra, who was the Principal victim of Wednesday's assault, has also drawn attention to the fact that the assault on him had taken place just a week after he had made a re-appearance on SLFP platforms. This was the political back-ground to Wednesday's attack.

The incident itself is now under investigation and the Government must make every effort to get to the bottom of the affair. Were the

culprits UNP trade union officials? Or was it the result of the rift in the SLFP? Various theories are being advanced and only a full investigation can come up with the facts.

Meanwhile, last Saturday, the SLFP's All Island Committee met at Horagalla in a meeting which was clearly crucial to the crisis-ridden party. It took place against the back-ground of efforts by the Hector-Actor Group, as they are now baptised, to take control of the party and was interpreted as a counter-move by Mrs.Bandaranaike against this faction. The topic that loomed large was the choice of a Presidential nominee. Mrs.Bandaranaike had told the meeting that it was not a subject that could be discussed in that forum but that a nominee could be chosen only after consulting other political parties, mass organisations (an interesting fact is that she had mentioned the Sinhala Mandalaya by name) and Mahanayake Theras. She had also said that the nominee should be one who could also get the support of sections of the UNP.

In reply to speculation about Dr.Colvin R.de Silva, being put forward as a common candidate with SLFP support, Mrs.Bandaranaike had said that the SLFP was not that bankrupt and that it would announce its candidate at the proper time.

Thus, it is clear that Mrs. Bandaranaike is keen to get as wide a support as possible for her candidate. She knows that only a strong candidate with wide acceptability can offer a challenge to President Jayewardene and she has kept her options open without rushing to a decision.

As for the return of the dissidents, Mrs.Bandaranaike had strongly argued for taking them back. She had said that the break-away group had been honest and when they perceived that

Mr.Maithripala Senanayake had misled them, they had come back. Thus, they had to be taken back in good faith. She had also said that if they could accept those who once plotted to kill her (a reference to ex-JVPers like Deva Bandara SENaratne who are close to the Vijaya Kumaranatunge group), there was no reason why the dissidents should not be welcomed back.

On the surface it appears that the meeting had ended in a triumph for Anura Bandaranaike and his group. Mrs.Bandaranaike's championing of their cause and her reference to Kumaranatunge loyalists like Senaratne showed that the balance was in favour of Mr.Bandaranaike, but sharper observers of SLFP politics say that what she had really tried to do was to maintain a balance between the Anura Bandaranaike and Kumaranatunge-Kobbekaduwa groups and save the party from internal warfare.

There are signs that the party would try to patch up its differences and face the challenge of the coming election seriously. In fact, at the Politbureau meeting which had preceded the All Island Committee Ratnadeshapriya SENanayake had proposed and Lakshman Jayakody had seconded a resolution that the Bandaranaike family should refrain from airing their family differences in public. Echoing this, Mrs.Bandaranaike had also told the All Island Committee that if this happened, she would take stern steps, however powerful the culprits might be. Since it is the unfortunately loquacious Mr.Kumaranatunge who has been guilty of such lapses, this, too, is interpreted as a rebuff to him.

The LSSP, meanwhile, has decided to canvas support for Dr.de Silva's candidature. It has already contacted the Sri Lanka Communist party to obtain its support.

ISLANDWIDE CRIME PICTURE GRIM

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Srimal Abeyewardene: "Crime Portents Grim, Says IGP: 'People In Fear'"]

[Text] IGP Rudra Rajasingham has sent out a grim alert to heads of police divisions countrywide, saying that the 'overall picture of crime in the island is not at all satisfactory and a matter of great concern.'

The police chief has drawn the attention of his senior officers to what he has called the 'steep rise in nearly all types of crime.' He has said that detections in most cases had been poor.

"Fortunately in some instances, accused have been arrested, leading to the solving of a group of cases--but the investigation process, I am afraid is not up to standard," he said.

The IGP, who has recently met people living in different parts of the country has been told in conversation that lawlessness seems to be prevailing everywhere. Although the police have not been blamed, he said, the problem needed the highest priority.

Examining the available crime figures at police headquarters, Mr Rajasingham found that last year there had been 24 highway robberies and 24 gang robberies during the first half. This year the numbers had climbed to 65 and 37.

The police chief has said that apart from well known area criminals directly participating in these offences, 'other sundry criminals too have jumped on the bandwagon, holding up vehicles and robbing houses in various parts of the island.

'It is now reaching a stage where members of the public are afraid to travel by night and live in fear in their own homes,' he said.

The IGP believes that an intelligent assessment of crime in station areas and districts can help to check this trend.

He has directed the senior officers to ensure that this is done.

The police chief has also expressed concern about the number of firearm and vehicle thefts. The theft of guns was a serious matter both from the criminal and security point of view.

'Burglaries and thefts in residential areas are becoming all too frequent, with hardly any detections being made,' he said.

The IGP has required highest priority from all police divisions to tackle what he perceives to be a grim picture.

CSO: 4220/289

FINES PROPOSED UNDER PRESS ANTIDEFAMATION LAW

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 25 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Peter Balasuriya]

[Text]

Under the package of anti-defamation laws proposed by Justice Minister Nissanka Wijeyeratne a fine of Rs.100,000 per day will be imposed on the owner, editor or publisher of a Newspaper who fails to cease publication once a defamation suit is filed against the Newspaper.

This fine will continue to add up until such time the publication ceases.

Top legal authorities are of the view that the proposed laws exclusively reported in 'The Island' of last Sunday, violated fundamental rights of the Constitution which are justiciable.

The fine of Rs.100,000 these authorities state, violated Article 14 (1) (a) of the Constitution by denying the right of publication to a person not yet judged to be guilty of an offence.

Article 14 (1) (a) states: 'Every citizen is entitled to the freedom of speech and expression including publication.....'

It is also understood that the Justice Minister, who is keen on having the proposed laws passed early, will shortly consult the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General on the question of appointing a special panel of judges to hear defamation cases.

The proposed legislation also provides for the Courts hearing defamation suits to inform the defendant of the quantum of cash bond or property that has to be mortgaged and if the defendant failed to provide this, the case would be heard ex-parte.

Authorities held this provision violated Article 11 of the Constitution, which states no persons shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Another provision of the proposed laws is that defamation cases will have priority over all other cases, and proceedings will continue day by day until the conclusion of the case.

This provision, legal authorities have said, would give plaintiffs in defamation cases preferential treatment over plaintiffs in other cases, despite the provision of Article 12(1) of the Constitution which states 'All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law'.

'The Island' understands the draft Bill is now with the Legal Draftsman and once the Bill is ready, it would be presented to the President for his observations.

QUESTIONS FREEDOM UNDER UNP

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 24 Jul 82 p 6

[Editorial: "Country Belongs to the People"]

[Text]

On the fifth anniversary of the Government's installation in office, on Thursday President J.R. Jayewardene went on Television and offered the country a detailed justification, defence and exposition of Government policy. The crux of his case was that the UNP had transformed the country during the last five years and the people will be given an opportunity in due course to decide whether the UNP should continue to rule the country or whether there should be a change in Government.

The UNP has completed five years in office and the people will pass judgment on that five-year record at the elections that are due soon. In the final analysis, the last judgment, it is the people who are supreme for it is they who enthrone and dethrone Governments, crown politicians with the halo of power or hurl them into oblivion with a mere cross on a ballot paper. The President has underlined this with his statement that the country belongs neither to the President nor politicians but to the people.

Such home truths must be repeated and emphasised to remind politicians that they dawn on a country like some sudden comet, strut about on the political platform and fade away as fast as they came, but the people go on and the country goes on.

Governments normally fall from power when the people perceive a gulf between what they say and what they do, between the rhetoric of the political platform and the sordid reality of the political market place. The grim reality of broken promises and violated pledges mock the rhetorical flourishes and expose them for the hollow inanities that they are. This is the pitfall which every Government must guard against. The President, for example, has said that no one could accuse him of being corrupt or being involved in any corrupt act during the forty years in which he has been in public life. He has pledged to do everything he can to eradicate corruption. No one doubts the President's political probity, but powerful members of his own party, political name-droppers and those who claim to be close to the councils of power, crows parading in borrowed plumes can discredit him and his party and undermine the people's faith in the Government by their questionable deeds. It is only the constant vigilance of those at the very top which can halt such an erosion of faith.

Another important point that the President had made was that his Government had repealed the draconian legislation by the previous regime and created a climate where people could live without fear. If such a climate is to reach fruition, the country's contemporary politics must be free of thuggery and all political parties, public bodies and public figures must have the guarantee that they can participate fully in public life without the fear of goon squads. This is why we condemn again the cowardly assault on defenceless participants of a meeting called by the Sinhala Bala Mandalaya on Wednesday and urge the Government again to get to the bottom of the matter as soon as possible. If a respected intellectual like Professor Sarachchandra, whose contribution to the evolution of a contemporary tradition of Sinhala drama, literature and critical writing has been epic can be dragged down from a public platform, pounded with the jackboots of fascistic thugs and thrown into a drain and the culprits get away scot free, that would be a sad day, indeed. It is incumbent on the Government to immediately investigate this sordid affair and bring the culprits to book if it is serious in its protestations about law and order.

A third significant factor underlined by the President is the freedom of expression. The freedom of the Press, the freedom to express opinions contrary to the official dogmas and the prevailing orthodoxies of the day, the freedom to congregate, the freedom of association are the collective bedrock of the democratic way of life. In a situation where these rights are threatened by terror gangs and goon squads, there can be no open society.

Readers will also recall that 'The Island Sunday Edition' this week scooped the story about the proposed new defamation laws which make it mandatory for a publisher to close down a Newspaper the moment a libel suit is filed. The real effect of this would be to deprive Newspapers of the right of publication under the pretext of safe-guarding the character of public figures. We have already, in these columns on Monday, commented on the implications of this legislation. We earnestly hope that this was just a bit of 'kite-flying' on the part of the Government to use the popular Ceylonism. It will be a happy day if this particular kite is grounded for lack of air to propel it.

We would like to reiterate that the Government and particularly the President must be constantly vigilant to ensure that Government's principal policies are not violated by vermin and political riff-raff in their own party. It will be in the Government's own interests to ensure this because in the last analysis, the people judge a Government not on what they say but what they do.

POLICE COMMENDED FOR FACING UP

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 31 Jul 82 p 4

[Editorial: "The Police Alert"]

[Text] It always takes courage to face up to any ugly truth. By that test, IGP Rudra Rajasingham surely shines. He has not tried to paper over the grim portents that challenge the country.

A police service, led by an officer of such candour and true to itself, can plainly claim the capability of restoring people to a sense of security — given the means, of course.

Several factors could have contributed to the current threat to public order and peace. For several decades, policemen were hopelessly underpaid and the police service could not attract the talent best suited to its needs.

Then, the demoralising effects of political pressures under government after government eroded the authority of every division of the police. Thus, there was a time when at least one outstation SP declared in exasperation: *The IGP in Colombo may be my boss; but I have to take orders from my MP.*

Again, security councils established during the insurgency seemed to leave the head of the island's police service with relatively marginal influence.

But, perhaps, the most serious threat today, to the police, comes from various politically motivated extremists given over to violence to gain their demands.

Beginning with those operating in the North, a whole range of trigger-happy elements appear to have taken up positions in several parts of the island.

During the insurgency of 1971, it was believed in several circles that foreign influences were at work in the uprising taking place on our soil.

That aspect of the matter was later almost

tendentiously glossed over. But in today's world of international intrigue, it is difficult to believe that armed struggles were nothing to alien inspirations.

Thus, the Sri Lankan Police — already under strength today — has to contend with a political power struggle, with local crime and with organised gangsterism.

The current crime wave could be a world phenomenon. But it makes no one's life happier or safer by that reason.

Highway robberies, this year for example, stand at more than double the relative figure for 1981.

Already several policemen have laid down their lives in the course of duty.

That distressing truth has not distracted Mr. Rudra Rajasingham from his sense of responsibility.

People live in fear, he has boldly recorded, adding that burglaries and thefts are becoming so commonplace that detections seem to elude the authorities and victims alike.

A good general always sizes up the field before him. The IGP has done just that. The facts he has recounted are bitter, but the people of this country are better off for the exposure.

Evidently, the top brass at Police Headquarters must now present the government with the blueprint of a strategy for the future. Keeping the peace and protecting public and private property is not, of course, the exclusive duty of the Police. The State and, above all, society itself must support any endeavour to overcome the peril now facing our land. Meanwhile, the IGP has rendered a great service in sounding a timely alert.

UREA EXPORTS TO BURMA

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 5 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Ivor Milhuisen: "Urea for Export: "Burma First Buyer"]

[Text] The State Fertiliser Manufacturing Corporation (SFMC) has closed a deal with the Agricultural Corporation of Burma for the export of 50,000 metric tons of Urea valued at Rs. 184 million in foreign exchange, Mr. Peter Abeysirigunawardene the Corporation's Chairman, said yesterday

"For the first time the country is exporting urea and already 19,000 m.t. have been shipped. We expect to complete the order before October when local demand increases with the beginning of the Maha season," he said.

The urea plant at Sapugaskanda is capable of producing 310,000 m.t. a year working at full capacity, whereas local requirements of urea are about 150,000 m.t. a year.

"It was found that operating the factory only to meet local requirements was not viable as operating costs were high, he explained.

As the corporation

was carrying large stocks that were not moving, the factory was closed from April to June this year. It commenced production again in early July and is now producing 850 m.t. a day, he said.

He said it has now been decided to work the plant at about 80 to 90 per cent capacity and produce about 280,000 m.t. a year which will then greatly reduce operating costs.

"In this way we can meet the local demand and have about 125,000 m.t. for export" he added.

The corporation is looking for new Export markets. India is most

favoured because of its close proximity, Indonesia is also a potential market. World market prices for urea are depressed, the present price is US \$ 215 per metric ton.

"The corporation is selling urea to the local farmer at the present world market prices because we have to

generate enough revenue to keep the plant viable," Mr. Abeysirigunawardene explained.

The export order has considerably relieved the Corporation which has been burdened with a liquidity crisis over a long period. The economic viability of the SFMC had also been questioned.

BRIEFS

DEFAMATION LAWS DENIED--The controversial proposals to amend the existing laws of defamation will not get into the country's statute book after all. No Cabinet paper embodying these proposals has been submitted official Cabinet spokesman Anandatissa de Alwis said yesterday. President J.R. Jayewardene, he said, had asked Ministers at yesterday's Cabinet meeting whether anyone of them had sent Cabinet papers on this matter. The answer was no, he said. Replying to a question by a newsman whether any proposals were submitted to the Attorney-General on this subject Mr de Alwis said proposals were submitted on all sorts of matters but no Cabinet paper had been forwarded on anti-defamation laws. SUN of July 19 stated that the proposal for such legislation had been vetoed by the Attorney-General on the grounds that it violated fundamental rights of free speech, expression and publication. In another report, SUN stated that this matter would be discussed by the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on justice, among other matters, when it meets today. [By Kenneth Amarasekera and Jennifer Henricus] [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 29 Jul 82 p 1]

RAILWAY SECURITY INCREASED--The Defence Ministry yesterday called for the maintenance of strict vigilance against any attempts to sabotage the state transport services. This follows a report that the derailment of the Batticaloa night mail train near the Gal Oya Railway station was a clear case of sabotage. Consequent to this incident, the Police and the Railway authorities have been directed to carry out a detailed study of derailments in the recent past and to determine whether they were accidents or acts of sabotage. The Defence Ministry has pointed out that in the buildup for the elections, there is always a strong possibility of anti-government elements resorting to the disruption of state run services in order to embarrass the authorities. The Police have identified several vulnerable stretches of tracks and are expected to carry out joint patrolling with railway security officials where it is deemed necessary. Close checks are also to be carried out to ensure that reports of 'fish plate removals' and their detections by railway personnel are not merely efforts to earn extra "overtime" payments through patrols. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 29 Jul 82 p 1]

SECURITY PERSONNEL INSURANCE--All police and armed services personnel serving in the north are to be covered under a new high risk group insurance scheme. According to a proposal submitted by the Defence Ministry to government the dependents of an officer killed on duty will receive a sum of Rs 100,000. The insurance scheme also covers total and partial disability for which sums of Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000 are to be paid. Around 1,500 police officers and

services personnel serving in the Jaffna peninsula are to come under the scheme which will entail the payment of Rs 360 per annum per individual. This scheme will be outside of the normal welfare and new compensation scheme approved by Cabinet last month. The decision has been taken in view of the high risks faced by security personnel in the north where over 20 police and army personnel have been gunned down by terrorists. The Defence Ministry is also examining the feasibility of paying security personnel serving in the north an additional risk allowance. At present the army units and police intelligence personnel serve a term of three months in Jaffna on a rotation basis, while the police are to initiate a new scheme under which all officers and men will be called upon to serve a minimum of one year in the north. [By Ranil Weerasinghe]
[Text] [Colombo SUN in English 2 Aug 82 p 1]

POLICE ELECTION DAY PLANS--Police will set up a special unit to interview and recruit about 20,000 policemen required to maintain security at 6,900 polling booths that will be set up at the next general election. This comes in the wake of Elections Commissioner Chitranda de Silva's intimation to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, R. Sunderalingam that 6,900 polling booths would be set up at the next general election. The existing police staff of 15,000 is inadequate to undertake this task of offering protection to polling booths and other security activities during election time, Police pointed out. According to Police sources, the number of applications to join the force had dwindled from 55,000 in 1977 to 30,000 in 1981. With the announcement of the election, steps would be taken to provide complete security to the whole nation, Mr Sunderalingam told SUN. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 26 Jul 82 p 3]

USSR SCHOLARSHIPS--The Soviet Union has agreed to increase the number of scholarships extended to Sri Lankan students, from 70 to 100 over the next four years. An agreement to this effect was signed at the Ministry of Higher Education yesterday, by Soviet Ambassador Boris E. Kirnasovski and Higher Education Ministry Secretary, Dr Stanley Kalpage. The majority of the scholarships have been reserved for medicine (40 percent) while 30 per cent are for engineering, 16 per cent for agriculture and the balance for arts and other courses. The number of general scholarships will be increased from 55 in 1982 to 60 in 1983, 1984 and 1985, and further increased to 65 in 1986. The post-graduate schools will be increased from 15 in 1982 to 35 by 1986. [Article by Lasanda Kurukulasuriya]
[Text] [Colombo SUN in English 27 Jul 82 p 3]

FIRST NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER--First Nigerian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Olade Asiwju-dada presented his credentials to President J.R. Jayewardene on 9 August. [Text] [BK201137 Colombo SUN in English 10 Aug 82 p 3]

NEW ENVOY TO INDIA--Bernard P. Tillekaratne, director general, foreign affairs, has been appointed high commissioner for Sri Lanka in India. He succeeds T.B. Panabokke. [Text] [BK201137 Colombo SUN in English 10 Aug 82 p 3]

CSO: 4220/325

THAILAND

AFLI CRITICIZED FOR INTERVENTION IN LABOR MATTERS, CIA LINKS CITED

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 22 Jul 82 pp 20, 21

[Article: "The AFLI, National Espionage"]

[Text] The day to elect the executive committee of the Employees' Council of the Laobr Council of Thailand is almost at hand. The combativeness of the competitors has increased. The various groups are charging that the other side does not take the work seriously and that they are not trustworthy. Also, places for holding [Hyde Park style] debates have been set up in order to win votes away from the competition, which will affect the outcome of the election.

And the final result has been that an international labor organization has been drawn into this. The labor organization referred to is the AFLI.

The 18 July Election

The election of people to the executive committee of the Employees' Council of the Laobr Council of Thailand is scheduled for 18 July. The two competing groups of importance are the groups of Mr Phaisan Thawatchainan and Mr Sawat Lukdot. Concerning the first group, Mr Phaisan will enter the race for president. Mr Pricha Sirimisap, from the National Housing Authority, will run for secretary-general. As for the group of Mr Sawat, Mr Amat Khamthetthong is running for president and Mr Wichai Thosuwannachinda, from the Thai Metropolitan Bank, is running for secretary-general.

A news report has revealed that, in order to heal the dispute between the two groups, the AFLI has proposed that the position of president be given to Mr Phaisan and that the position of secretary-general be given to Mr Amat. At the same time, it is greatly opposed to Mr Sawat joining with the Democrat Labor Party. "Unionism" is enough.

The views of the AFLI carry great weight and they will probably affect the election of an executive committee. This is because the AFLI plays an important role among Thai labor leaders. For example, it has provided money for holding seminars, given office equipment to various labor unions and invited labor

leaders to go observe activities abroad. Thus, if the AFLI wants to do something in accord with its own needs, it can certainly do so. Stated simply, the AFLI "holds the tiger by the tail" and can easily stipulate the direction of Thai labor.

AFLI-CIA

The AFLI, or Asian-American Free Labor Institute, is an American branch of the AFL-CIO, which is a national labor federation.

The director of the AFLI in Thailand changes frequently. The director used to be Mr Kenneth Hodgesan, an American of Mexican extraction. But he has now been replaced by Mr John K Sloan. Its offices are located in the Kasemchit Building on Silom Road. It is a foreign labor organization that has played a role in Thai labor. It has provided money for holding seminars and given office equipment. Many labor unions, including the Raiolrad Labor Union, have received office equipment from the AFLI.

It cannot be said when the AFLI began carrying on activities in Thailand. However, several sources have said with some authority that the high-level AFLI officials are members of the CIA. This charge has not been substantiated and it cannot be said definitively that Thai labor leaders are traitors who are working as spies for this organization.

"They are members of the CIA. I will say that explicitly," said Prathin Thamrongchoi, a member of the Transport Labor Federation of Thailand.

Prathin told LAK THAI that the main policy of the AFLI is to provide money for training seminars for laborers with no strings attached. Previously, they always remained neutral. But when there were difficulties in the council, the AFLI proposed a solution, proposing that the "position of president should be reserved for Phaisan while the position of secretary-general should be given to Amat." Prathin does not feel that this is proper.

"I do not understand why the AFLI has gotten involved this time. I have telephoned them several times expressing my displeasure over their interference," said Prathin. He pointed out that [he] wants to change the policy and basis of the labor council since at present the problems of the Thai laborers cannot be solved.

Who Is Who In Labor

Actually, it is not only the AFLI that is active in Thai labor circles. Many other international labor institutions have come and given support to the laborers. This support consists of money and equipment. An official in the Labor Department told LAK THAI that "there are more than 20 foreign labor organizations in Thailand. For example, Mr Phaisan's group is a member of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). Mr Sanan's group is a member of BATU.

Normally, the Labor Department does not supervise these organizations very strictly. It is not known to whom they give money or to which unions they give office equipment. "The only thing is that when they arrange seminars, they send us a petition so that we can inform the employers and obtain permission for the employees to attend the seminar without any loss of wages," said the same official. The Labor Department then sends an official to observe things at the seminar.

Concerning the important foreign labor organizations that support Thai labor, in addition to the AFLI, others include:

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. This is an organization of the Free World that opposes the communists. It plays a role among the workers through the Labor Council of Phaisan. Mr Wirawut Bunmakhli, the secretary-general of the Metropolitan Power Authority Labor Union, is the coordinator. It provides money for holding seminars and for sending people to observe activities abroad.

The International Federation of Hotels and Food has an office in Singapore. In Thailand, Mr Thawin Kanwihot is the coordinator. It does not play a very great role here. It once supported the establishment of a hotel federation in Thailand.

In Thailand, the International Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Federation has an office in the Thawit Building, which is where the Frederick Abreat Foundation of Germany has its office. It has contact only with those labor unions concerned with communications.

The World Federation of Trade Unions is an international socialist labor organization. It was established before the Second World War. It is a rival of the ICFTU. Its [head] office is located in Prague, Czechoslovakia. There is no evidence showing that it has carried on movements among Thai workers.

These international labor organizations have infiltrated labor groups. In some cases, they have played a role with pure intentions, wanting the workers to make progress. "I do not think there is anything wrong with this because the workers want to improve their position," said Major General Sutsai Hatsadin to LAK THAI.

But concerning those that do not have pure intentions and whose actions are suspect, caution should be exercised. Don't just think of the profits since it will not be long before you are labeled as "traitors, that is your work."

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SAP OFFICIAL AFFIRMS KHUKRIT DIRECTION, DISCUSSES PARTY STRATEGY

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 7 Aug 82 pp 24-27

[Interview with Koson Krairuk, the Secretary-General of the Social Action Party; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] There are questions about why the SAP has appointed 10 deputy party leaders. Are they just figurehead deputy party leaders?

[Answer] If you observe things, you will see that the deputy party leaders are the people who help the party leader as much as possible. And this is not all that much. At the very least, there must be four deputy leaders, one from each region. Each major region sends an experienced person to help. Thus, 10 people for the coming joint-zone election is not very many. They are not figureheads. They must help. They are not ornaments. Don't forget that the role of the MPs elected in the 1979 election will come to an end after the budget act is passed. The present executive committee of the SAP was formed for the election battle.

[Question] It is said that this was done in order to heal the internal party disputes and bring Mr Bunchu back in.

[Answer] That is the view of people who have a political grudge. It was not necessary to set up [this committee] in order to stop the conflicts. According to the old party resolution, the executive committee consisted of 29 people, including the party leader. This was changed 2 to 3 months ago. There are now 41 people [on the committee]. And [the new resolution] states that there are to be 10 deputy party leaders. This is in the party constitution. There were originally four people. And look, since we hope that the next election will provide us with a greater opportunity than others, we must have more workers.

[Question] It seems that the SAP is making thorough preparations for the next election.

[Answer] Yes. We know that the political era of Mr Khukrit is passing. He is old now but he is still very able because of his intelligence and the wisdom he has acquired through the years. But in another 4 years he will probably

be too tired and frail. Thus, we must score achievements while he can still help build the party.

[Question] Does this mean that 1983 will see the last great battle of Momrachawong Khukrit?

[Answer] Yes. We will fight the last battle for him and he will be the commander. This is how we feel. But we have to recognize that he is getting old.

[Question] And what do you think will be the result of this final battle? Do you think you will be able to form a government?

[Answer] I don't want to say that. The people would not like that and would not vote for us. We are trying to disseminate our policies. That is, it will be best if we can disseminate our policies everywhere.

[Question] Does this mean that you will field candidates in every zone?

[Answer] If our people are qualified, we can do this. But there must be some guarantee. If there is to be hope, we must be extremely careful about the people [fielded].

[Question] Concerning the position of party secretary-general that has changed, Mr Khukrit has said that Mr Kasem was secretary-general for many years and that he has provided much help. He has much work to do as a minister and so he replaced him [as secretary-general] with Mr Koson. But you are deputy minister of interior and have a heavy workload too. Looking at this from the standpoint of the workload, why wasn't someone else chosen?

[Answer] Can you give me an example?

[Question] What about Mr Bunchu?

[Answer] Oh! He is too big. He is too big to be secretary-general. Its better for him to be deputy party leader. And he must help too. The deputy party leaders must all help. They must share the work. Mr Bunchu must definitely help. And my work at the Ministry of Interior does not amount to much. Everything is all right there. So they let me have this position.

[Question] Mr Sawat Khamprakop resigned his position as deputy party leader as if he were dissatisfied.

[Answer] He was satisfied. Very satisfied. Mr Sawat is a good man. Mr Sawat went and paid his respects to Khukrit. When Mr Sawat joined the party, he did not ask to be this or that. The head of the party decided to let him join because he was an old politician from the Democrat period. They had worked together since the founding of the Democrat Party, since the time Mr Khukrit served as the first secretary-general. When he asked to join, he was allowed to do so. When he joined, Mr Sawat said that he would resign after the election

so that people would not misunderstand and think that he joined the SAP after bargaining for a position in the party. It was felt that there would be changes first. That is, tasks would have to be carried out to see the results first. And really, he did not bargain. But the leader of the party felt that they had worked together since the very beginning, when the Democrat Party was formed and when Mr Khudrit was the party secretary-general and Mr Khuang was party leader.

[Question] Concerning the seven MPs who left the party, will they be drawn back into the party?

[Answer] Please don't say "drawn back into." When they left, they left of their own accord. There was only a minor disagreement but they were too hotheaded and sensitive. Since this was the case, according to the regulations, whoever wants to join the party must submit an application. They must submit new applications. The party has rules and regulations and a party constitution. The matter of whether they should be admitted must be discussed.

[Question] Concerning the talk about dissolving parliament, is the SAP ready if parliament is in fact dissolved?

[Answer] There would probably be great confusion because the SAP does not believe that parliament will be dissolved. The boat has already reached the shore. And there are no problems that would cause parliament to be dissolved. As for the role of the present group of MPs, the final curtain on the political stage will come down after the budget is prepared. The MPs will return home. What reason would the government have for dissolving parliament? I am in the government too. Even the prime minister must have a reason if he wants to dissolve parliament.

[Question] What if the budget does not pass?

[Answer] The present government may resign if the prime minister is tired of this. Parliament will be dissolved so that the people can understand that it is the democratic system that will affirm whether the government or the MPs are right or wrong. The election results will tell.

[Question] Does the movement to dissolve parliament stem from the matter of the form of the election, in which zones have been divided into joint zones?

[Answer] I have heard this too but I don't think this will happen. I think that all politicians must recognize the situation. Concerning the problems of the SAP in particular, as a political party, regardless of the form of the election, we must be ready to fight and not ask that the election be held using this or that form. This is not a perfect type of party. Regardless of whether the election is in the form of a single person per zone or whether zones are divided, a political party of the people must be ready to fight under those rules. This is what I think.

[Question] Concerning the matter of Minister Sitthi Sawetsila joining the SAP, it seems that this action was taken very quickly. And will the other three independent ministers join too as has been reported in the news?

[Answer] This was known for a long time. Minister Sitthi really wanted to become a politician. It was known for a long time that he would join the SAP. We feel this is a great honor. He had to give up his position in the Senate. By chance, we did not have any members who were experts in foreign affairs. And remember, Khukrit has never in his life tried to persuade anyone [to join]. He has respected everyone. When MPs come to see him, he never tries to persuade them to join. As for the three ministers, I have not heard about this. Never. I have never heard anyone in the party talk like that. As for persuading these people to join, that is certainly not true. I even asked the prime minister once and he told me that there had never been any talk about this. When people go to eat together, I think they talk about the problems in parliament or other problems. Politics may be discussed but as for what is talked about in this party, I have learned that Mr Khukrit has never tried to persuade anyone.

[Question] Why have conflicts arisen in many of the major political parties? Is this natural or is there some other reason?

[Answer] In some parties, these conflicts are natural. In others, they are not natural; they have been created. In the SAP, the conflicts are natural. There must be some conflicts. But we can compromise too.

[Question] Have the compromises in the SAP come from the party's policy or from Mr Khukrit?

[Answer] I think 60 percent from Khukrit and 40 percent from the party's policy. The foundation of the SAP is Mr Khukrit more than the party's policy. The policies of other parties are good but they cannot unite since they do not have a center. Mr Khukrit is the center of everything, including the psychological aspects. This is because, when he speaks, people listen to him. And this does not mean just those in the SAP. You yourself know that people listen whenever he speaks.

[Question] And what will happen when Mr Khukrit is no longer fit?

[Answer] That is the day that the SAP will have to hold in remembrance. When Mr Khukrit retires from politics, we will have lost something. That day, we will all have to make greater sacrifices. As for conflicts and differences of opinion, we will have to reduce our differences. This is because, as long as Mr Khukrit is with us, he can resolve all the conflicts and stop conflicts that have arisen. That day will be a day of great loss for the SAP. We will have lost a person worthy of great respect. That day, everyone must be aware and reduce the conflicts as much as possible. There is nothing that can resolve the conflicts like Mr Khukrit.

[Question] Do others in the party feel like this? What preparations have been made? Will there be a fight to succeed him?

[Answer] If the zones are divided into small three-man zones, Mr Samak has said frankly that the country needs a person like Mr Khukrit. But concerning such large zones, there has never been any talk or agreements. But whether there are any agreements or not, Mr Khukrit will definitely run in Bangkok. Like last time, there was real agreement. Mr Samak fielded candidates but he really didn't expect much. But this does not mean that Khukrit dictates things. In some cases, he listens to the party concerning what should be done. The only thing is that, at present, he has said that he will run in Bangkok. But several people are saying that it would be safer to run somewhere else. That is, everyone is trying to get him to run in their province, which would help them the most. That is, they want him to run too because there is a single slate. There are a lot of "bumblebees" in the northeast.

[Question] At the end of last week, Major General Chawalit Yongchayut spoke at the Government House, saying that all we have are figurehead ministers. Is that true?

[Answer] That is a matter for each person to decide for himself. I don't know whether the newspapers quoted him correctly or not. But I do not believe that that is what he thinks. And as for your question of whether or not I am an ornament, it is difficult to respond to this because it is like saying that we are handsome. We just cannot say this. Others can tell us. Others can tell us whether we are clever and honest. Thus, I cannot answer you. Its up to each person to decide.

[Question] Concerning Major General Chawalit Yongchaiyut's statement that politicians do not really work hard and that the military must therefore become involved in politics, what part do you think the military should play in politics and how involved should it become?

[Answer] This has been a constant problem. This is a matter of individuals, not the military. Concerning soldiers who feel that they should take some stand, recognizing the country's situation, as a politician it is my position that joint-zone elections in which the full party slate is elected will create solidarity in politics. Because if a party wins because of an individual, this will generate solidarity. But it will be difficult for soldiers to interfere since the parties are united. Thus, as long as politics crawls along and fails to accept the party system, the MPs will be more important than the parties. But if parties, as a team, are elected, the parties will become more important than the [individual] MPs.

Look, if the party does not field a person, he will not have a chance to become an MP. Independents do not have the right to run. They must seek reconciliation with the parties. People cannot do things against the rules and conventions. Concerning this problem, I myself was blamed by many of my friends last time because they thought that I was going against party regulations. I wanted to

make the party system solid. If there is solidarity, we can protect ourselves against the soldiers. Look, in foreign countries, why are there battles between the political parties and those who favor dictatorship? Things will continue to be like this as long as there is Mr K and Mr Kh. Concerning this, I have seen the broadmindedness of the prime minister in voting on resolutions. At a cabinet meeting, he said that it is up to the parties to which each person belongs to decide what resolutions to have. He has not dictated resolutions. But he has suggested that each person should belong to a party.

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EDITOR VIEWS THACH VISIT, THAI POLICY

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 5 Aug 82 p 50

[Editorial: "Limiting the Battlefield to Kampuchea Will Not Be Easy"]

[Text] The visit to Thailand by Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese minister of foreign affairs, has by chance taken place on the 2 days that parliament is meeting to discuss the 1983 budget. Thus, it is not expected that Mr Nguyen Co Thach will meet with anyone in the Thai government besides those concerned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It seems that both Nguyen Co Thach and the Thai government have the same aim in order to prevent either side from losing face.

Before coming to Thailand, Mr Nguyen Co Thach toured the Asean countries. He also stopped off in Burma, which Vietnam considers to be a neutral neighbor that understands Vietnam better than other countries in Asia. And during his trip, Mr Nguyen Co Thach in effect told the Asean countries that if they continue to act like enemies toward Vietnam, Vietnam will retaliate by sending in forces to support the communist parties in these countries so that they can step up the level of terrorism.

This attitude of Nguyen Co Thach has generated much reaction and great opposition to his visit to Thailand. Mr Thanat Khoman, the deputy prime minister, is one person who went to greet Mr Nguyen Co Thach the day that he arrived in Thailand. He said that "if Nguyen Co Thach does not change his attitude, he will not have any chance of solving the Kampuchean problem during the time he is in Thailand."

The only reason that Mr Nguyen Co Thach undertook this trip to visit the capitals of the various countries in Asean was because he wanted to condemn the actions of each of the countries in this group. This is very strange and it is felt that this showed a lack of diplomatic politeness. Thus, it is widely felt that Mr Nguyen Co Thach had some hidden motive behind his aggressive words and show of power.

Mr Nguyen Co Thach is more a politician than a diplomat. Or, he speaks more like a politician than a diplomat.

Or was there something hidden behind his words that boded ill for him and his country?

In my opinion, this aggressive attitude on the part of Mr Nguyen Co Thach, particularly when he was in Songapore, was meant as a warning to Thailand and Malaysia in particular since both of these countries are taking resolute action against the communists in their countries and spending great sums of money [to fight] the communists. It has become more and more clear that Thailand and Malaysia are the spearheads in opposing the Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea and that they are trying vigorously to interfere in the events in Kampuchea, especially in supporting the Khmer coalition government of Prince Sihanouk.

Today, Vietnam has a great potential for making war. Even though there are many observers who feel that Vietnam is not in a position to fight because of the great economic problems that it is encountering and because of the fact that China has large military forces near Vietnam's northern border, I feel that if Vietnam really has no other choice, it will have to fight. And I think that it will be the side to start the war so that it suffers the least damage.

As for Thailand, since the political and economic situation in the country is more uncertain than certain, there is definitely no desire to be the spearhead in a war against Vietnam. But Thailand's attitude has probably generated constant apprehension on the part of Vietnam. Thus, if Vietnam wants to create greater turmoil in Thailand as Nguyen Co Thach has threatened, it will probably be able to do so when its time comes.

But concerning this, one favorable point worth noting is that the communists in Thailand are mostly Chinese-faction communists. When Vietnam announced that it would no longer help this movement, which occurred during the period when General Kriangsak was prime minister, the forces of the Chinese-faction communists declined in size and they carried on fewer operations.

However, when the time comes for these communists to increase in strength again, it is known that it will not be difficult for them to do so. In particular, concerning the Vietnamese-faction communists who have great manpower resources in the northeast, when they are mobilized, they can easily link up with the party's forces in the central and southern regions, regardless of whether there are operations in accord with the "Tai Rom Yen" plan, which seems to be an obstacle in their way.

Thus, it is essential that the Prem government discuss ways of solving the problem. Regardless of the results of the talks with Mr Nguyen Co Thach in Bangkok, it will not be easy to limit the battlefield to Kampuchea this time.

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ARMS SMUGGLING SCANDAL INVOLVES CLOSE PREM AIDE

Singapore Attache Implicated

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 31 Jul 82 pp 18, 19

[Article: "A Secret Report: An Aide to General Prem Implicated in Arms Trade"]

[Text] Concerning the matter of warrents being issued for the arrest of Major General Sawong Phinyo, an aide to the minister of defense, and Major Wiwat Wisanuwimon, an officer assigned to the Chemical Department, on charges concerning national security, the matter seems to have died down, even though many high-ranking army officers have said that "this matter will definitely not be whitewashed."

Besides the matter of whether or not the army will be able to punish the guilty people, the thing that people in general are interested in at present is where Major General Sawong and his accomplices were going to sell this great quantity of weapons. If these weapons were not in the army's purchasing budget, were these weapons going to be sold abroad or within the country?

If these weapons were purchased in order to sell them in the country, they would have had to have been sold to the various terrorist groups such as the communist terrorists, the bandit terrorists and the Malaysian communist guerrillas or to various minority groups such as the Free Karens or even to common bandits. Considering the large quantity of weapons involved and the great value of the weapons, in the view of many people, this would have been difficult and no terrorist group would have been able to obtain the money necessary to purchase these weapons. Maintaining them would have been difficult and there was the legal risk.

Thus, it seems more likely that the weapons were purchased for sale abroad. High-ranking officials and businessmen who are involved in the weapons trade have said that there are only two countries, Argentina and Iran, that want to purchase weapons. But this is not likely to happen. Thus, this leaves only the possibility of selling them to the Kampucheans who are forming a Khmer coalition government and who are presently fighting the Vietnamese.

Lieutenant General Nop Phinsaikaao, the former director of the Directorate of Personnel and the chairman of the committee that is investigating this case, told SIAM MAI that "Major General Sawong Phinyo and Major Wiwat Wisanuwimon had joined together and falsely used the name of a government unit to purchase war weapons from abroad without permission in order to sell them to another country." As for the results of the committee's investigation, he said that "concerning the purchase of weapons, these two officers who have been accused purchased the weapons in May 1982 before they were transferred and assigned to army headquarters in June 1982.

Colonel Narudon Detpradiyut, the secretary of the army, told SIAM MAI about the steps and methods in purchasing weapons. He said that "in purchasing weapons and war materials, there must be a confirmatory order from the person in command and it must be a person who has direct authority in accord with the contract and who was mentioned in the weapons purchase contract. Only then does the person have the right to purchase weapons. This can be called a purchasing permit, or guarantee. In particular, in the army, there are only a few people who have the legal authority to purchase weapons. These include the minister of defense, the director of the Directorate of Personnel and the chief of the Ordnance Department, who are directly concerned. Other people cannot order weapons."

Concerning this matter, one intelligence officer told SIAM MAI that "we have constantly followed the activities of these two officers. Recently, before this made the headlines in all the newspapers, our unit received an intelligence report from a military attache in Singapore stating that, at present, a military attache had signed an agreement for the purchase of 5,000 M16s. Such a purchase requires confirmation from diplomatic officials and the military attache in order to confirm the legality of this before permission is given to sell weapons. Concerning this, Singapore suddenly realized this and so it asked us about this. This is how we learned for sure that weapons really had been ordered."

Another officer with the rank of major general who was in the same class, Class 6 at the Army Cadet Academy, as Major General Sawong Phinyo and who is rather close to Major General Sawong told SIAM MAI that "I believe that this is just a political game that is being played in order to force General Prem to play his last card this September so that [the person behind this] can become the RTA CINC and compel the other fearsome candidate, or competitor, to become deputy supreme commander. The matter of weapons being purchased has been brought up for the final 'bargaining session.'

"Concerning the matter of Major General Sawong, I can assure you that this is not true. This was a secret policy; the 5,000 M16s that were purchased were not purchased for use in this country. We purchased them to give them to the Khmer groups that have formed a coalition government. Concerning the purchase of these weapons, high-ranking people had Major General Sawong handle this and now he has been made the scapegoat.

"Concerning this matter, this was [agreed on in] a joint resolution of the Asean countries. Weapons have been purchased like this two or three times

already. It is my understanding that the money to purchase this shipment of weapons came from Indonesia, which has supported the formation of the coalition government. The weapons are purchased through Thailand. But when this matter came up, the weapons that had been brought in and unloaded and which were about to be shipped on from Singapore to Kampuchea had to be shipped to Indonesia."

This is a scandal for which the army is responsible. It is hoped that the matter will be pursued and that the people will be kept well informed so that there is no whitewash, as has happened in the past.

Closeness to Prem Emphasized

Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 18-24 Jul 82 pp 10-12

[Article: "The General Who Sold Weapons, a Slap In the Face of Prem"]

[Text] The pure image of General Prem Tinsulanon was greatly tarnished for the first time when it became publicly known that Major General Sawong Phinyo, a former aide to the minister of defense, and a major had conspired to smuggle arms from the United States. They purchased weapons without following army regulations, which showed their dishonest intentions. Finally, last Tuesday, the Police Department issued a warrant for their arrest and pursued the case in accord with the law.

Concerning these weapons, it has been said that 4,000 M16s, Als, were transported from the United States and off-loaded at Singapore before being shipped on to Thailand by sea. The trouble arose when Singapore asked the Thai government whether or not these were weapons that Thailand had purchased. An investigation into the matter was launched and it was learned that the Ministry of Defense knew nothing about the purchase of these weapons. Major General Sawong and Major Wiwat Wisanuwinon, who was assigned to the Chemical Department, had conspired to purchase the weapons without the right to do so.

Major General Sawong was once involved in an illegal and scandalous affair when he was an officer in the logistics section of the Second Army Area during the period General Prem was the commanding general of this army area. He joined with merchants and an influential politician in the northeast to fell trees. He was quickly transferred and assigned to army [headquarters] within 24 hours. Besides this, there is the case of Mr L. Bunchai, a wealthy timber smuggler who was sentenced to life in prison in accord with Article 27 during the administration of Mr Thanin and who is presently serving his sentence at the Bang Khwang prison. It is said that Major General Sawong played a part in this by conspiring with the politician referred to earlier. As enemies of Mr Bunchai, they prepared false documents to frame him.

After he was transferred, Major General Sawong entered the monkhood for a period before General Prem recalled him to serve as aide to the minister of defense. During this period, Major General Sawong tried to use his position to show people on the outside that he was close to General Prem, both in Prem's capacity as minister of defense and as prime minister. But it was General Prem

who signed the order transferring him to army [headquarters] on 18 June, which was only about 3 weeks before the warrant for his arrest was issued.

"When this matter was investigated, Prem felt that what had been done was very bad and what made things even worse was that he [Sawong] was a close associate. Prem thus ordered him transferred immediately and had the officials concerned conduct an investigation to learn whether there had been a conspiracy to purchase weapons. Enough evidence was collected to show that a crime had been committed," said an officer close to General Prem to SU ANAKHOT. A warrant was issued because Major Wiwat, another suspect, fled after he was summoned for initial questioning.

"He made Major General Sawong his aide because he had sympathy for him as a person who had once been a close associate. And Prem thought that Sawong could reform himself. But when Sawong acted like this, General Prem naturally lost face. Prem had helped him but he still acted like this," said the same news source, who firmly denied that General Prem was involved in this even though the suspect was an aide of his.

"What should have been done? If he had been transferred to the army general staff, he would have had to work hard. This required comprehensive knowledge and the ability to get to the heart of a matter so that it can be discussed. Prem made him his aide so that he would not have to use any abilities. His only duty was to follow matters, file things away and make appointments," said the news source in an attempt to show why the position of aide is not very important as is believed. "While he had only this position, he tried to stay near the prime minister all the time. When reporters took pictures, he was always in the picture too and so others probably thought that he was very close to General Prem."

However, General Prem became upset with the reporters when they asked him about this matter at the Government House on the day that the Police Department officially issued the arrest warrant. But the following days, General Prem explained things in detail in a calmer way. He affirmed that he would definitely not protect anyone who has done something wrong and that the government and the office of the prime minister were not involved in this affair in any way.

An internal news source told SU ANAKHOT that, concerning this case of a general smuggling weapons, there was definitely a conspiracy. Other officers and civilians, including those from private companies and state enterprises, were involved too. This news source stated that there was a total of about 4,500 to 5,000 M16s. This number of weapons is sufficient to equip three divisions and is valued at around 30 million baht (each rifle costs about 7,000 baht). They were stored in four containers and transported in a ship belonging to a German company. The ship was chartered by a Thai state enterprise.

In shipping weapons from the United States to Thailand, in which the weapons are sent F.M.S., government-to-government, one company is responsible for inland transportation, that is, from the factory, in order to transport them to the

port in the United States for onward shipment by a shipping company, which is responsible for shipping the weapons across the ocean to Thailand. Both companies are legally designated as agents of the Thai government if they have first been recognized by the military. But according to news reports, it appears that in April and May, people falsely claiming to represent a company acting as the agent for the Thai government went to pick up the M16s from the factory of the Colt Company, the producer of the weapons.

"The American company did not know and so they sold the weapons to these people since they had a proper trading license and had been approved by Thai officials. It is also believed that they had a letter of guarantee from the Ministry of Defense, which was probably signed by Major General Sawong Phinyo," said the same news source. "But in fact, according to the contract made with the army, that company was not supposed to ship the weapons until September."

This news source also observed that after taking possession of the weapons, this company stopped off at Singapore even though, normally, weapons transported from the United States are shipped directly from the U.S. port to the port in Thailand. Also, it seems that Major Wiwat, together with a naval officer with a rank [equivalent to] major, travelled to Singapore and asked that the weapons be transferred to another Thai vessel. This made the Singapore officials suspicious and so they asked Thai embassy officials there. The entire matter was reported by the Thai military attache to the army and this resulted in an investigation being launched. But this Thai ship carrying the weapons sailed and disappeared without a trace before the matter came to light.

"From what can be determined from the news, they received shipments of weapons in two separate periods, that is, in February-March and in April-May. The sources were different in each case. According to reports, the first shipment was sent by two different companies," said the news source. Thus, those involved in arms smuggling have probably sent several shipments of weapons.

Major Wiwat Wisanuwimon, or Tui as he is called by his friends, is about 30 years old. He once served on the staff of General Soem Na Nakhon when General Soem was supreme commander. He was then transferred and assigned to the Chemical Department. A news source stated that Major Wiwat's father was an arms trader who regularly worked as a purchasing agent for the army. But later on he was cheated and he went bankrupt. Major Wiwat has thus tried to restore his family's position in any way possible.

The news source stated that it is very possible that Major Wiwat has fled to England and that he is living in the city of Portsmouth in southern England as has been reported. He once attended school in England; otherwise he would probably have gone to the United States since he has many friends there. "Major Wiwat has written letters to several high-ranking officers intimating that he is very influential in foreign circles," said another news source. At the same time, an official investigating this case told SU ANAKHOT that "we have contacted various embassies to help determine his whereabouts. He may still be in Singapore."

As for Major General Sawong, he was called for questioning and it is believed that he is now being detained somewhere, perhaps at the army conference hall. And if the investigation shows that he was really guilty, Major General Sawong will probably be discharged, demoted in rank and prosecuted by a military court.

"The question is: Where did the weapons disappear to?" asked a news source for the 10th time. He admitted that, to date, it has not been possible to determine where these M16s were taken. Also, it is still not clear what country or group these weapons were being sent to. There are several possibilities. One is that they were being sent to support the armed forces of the military groups that are active in western Thailand along the border with Burma. It may be that they were being sent to the Free Karen Army or to Khun Sa's forces. On the other hand, some people think that they were destined for countries in the Middle East, which are in great need of weapons since they are engaged in a war.

"I do not think they would send them to the communist terrorists since that group does not need weapons. At present, the terrorists have more weapons than men [to use them]. Their forces are decreasing daily. They have thus had to store most of their weapons. When we seize a camp, we discover stored weapons that are still new," said a high-ranking news source in the army. "I think that they were probably intended for the Shans or Karens."

This national scandal of a general being involved in arms smuggling clearly shows that there were certainly more than just two officers involved. There had to be a group that worked together closely as a team. It is difficult to determine whether there was a serious violation of the country's laws concerning national security, how many times they did this and how many other gangs there are that have hoodwinked the officials.

Even though many people still tend to believe that General Prem is an honest person and was not involved in this in any way, since this case involves a close associate who was chosen by General Prem himself, it reflects on the efficiency of these people. This means only that, among his subordinates, there are people who are so adept at currying favor that they have easily been able to fool General Prem.

"Prem feels that this must be thought of as a lesson in screening people in the future. Otherwise, more lice will crawl into our hair like this," said a news source frankly. But if this is not a strong slap in the face of General Prem as an honest person and as the person who has held the highest positions in the army and government, I do not know what else it could be called. And it is a political opening that those who oppose General Prem may use to attack him in the future.

Have you [Prem] made preparations for this?

Arrest Said to Cloud Prem Reputation

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 24 Jul 82 pp 16, 17

[Article: "Aide to Prem Caught Selling Weapons -- a Political Slap In the Face"]

[Text] On 9 July, the Police Department issued a warrant for the arrest of Major Wiwat Wisanuwimon, an officer assigned to the Chemical Department, and Major General Sawong Phinyo, an aide to the minister of defense who had been ordered transferred to army [headquarters] last month. They were ordered arrested on charges involving national security.

On 12 July, General Athit Kamlangek, the assistant commander in chief of the army, was interviewed by reporters from various newspapers at the Thewet Army Club concerning this matter. He said that the warrant was issued because it had been learned that weapons had been purchased illegally from the United States. That is, government officials had not ordered these weapons and neither Major General Sawong nor Major Wiwat Wisanuwimon had the authority to order weapons. But weapons purchased in the name of these two men turned up in Singapore.

On 13 July, almost all the newspapers headlined the story that a "warrant has been issued for the arrest of an aide to General Prem for smuggling weapons." This has further tarnished the image of the army and of General Prem Tinsulanon. Because of the fact that an aide was involved in illegal trading, the political stability of the Prem government has been weakened.

"This occurred several months ago and 2 months ago the army established a committee to investigate this matter. General Athit Kamlangek took part too," said Colonel Narudon Detpradiyut, the secretary of the army, to SIAM MAI.

This matter has certainly caused an uproar and generated much criticism among the people and in the army, particularly concerning having the Police Department issue a warrant for the arrest of a military officer of the rank of general. And businessmen who are involved in arms trading have exclaimed in surprise that "I do not think that it is easy to purchase weapons. It is like shopping. Things must be inspected systematically and in stages and this takes months. High-ranking officials certainly had to know about this. And what has now become news could not be covered up," said one high-level businessman who is engaged in the arms trade to SIAM MAI.

The matter of using one's position to make profits in purchasing weapons and war materials, supposedly for use in the army, is a scandal that has constantly damaged the reputation of high-ranking officers in the Thai army. Only a few years ago, in arms trading circles, it was said that this was a government-to-government type of trading in which it was impossible to avoid having to pay a percentage of the sale. This is because each company that serves as an agent immediately receives a percentage of the sale when weapons are sold, regardless of whether or not there is a government-to-government contract.

In particular, most of the arms trading companies in capitalist countries are private companies that are always willing to sell arms and they are not involved with their government in any way. The only thing is that foreign arms trading companies have a regulation stating that there must be an End User Certificate (E.U.C.), which is like a permit to purchase [weapons]. That is, there must be a high-ranking commander in the army who has the authority to sign the permit. And when the arms trading company receives the E.U.C., things are inspected by embassy officials and the military attache in order to confirm the legality of this before permission is given to sell the weapons.

Major General Sawong Phinyo, an aide to the minister of defense, is a person whom General Prem Tinsulanon brought with him from the Second Army Area. He was once the head of the Logistics Division. He served General Prem in the Second Army Area and was one of Prem's closest associates. General Prem placed great trust in him.

But in his government service, he is an officer who has advanced slower than others in his class. Major General Sawong is fairly close to Mr Chaisiri Ruongkanchanaset, the head of the Pracharat group and a godfather in the northeast. Stories appearing in several newspapers have said that he was involved in closing the forests and felling trees in the zone of the Second Army Area. General Prem appointed him as aide to the minister of defense at the end of last year. Among the merchants who wanted to obtain a concession or an E.U.C., he was known as "General Staff Wong."

At the end of last year, army intelligence officials received a report that 6,000 M16s had been purchased in the name of the army and that permission to do this had been given by an officer with the rank of general. An investigation was conducted and it was learned that this large number of weapons valued at more than 30 million baht was not in the army's purchasing program. And the purpose of the purchaser was not known.

The army thus set up a committee to investigate the matter. But it was unable to follow Major General Sawong and Major Wiwat, and General Prem, who was his direct superior, was unable to help. Thus, General Athit Kamlangek talked with Mr Phisan Mulasatsathon, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, and asked that a warrant for their arrest be issued throughout the country. But after Major General Sawong gave himself up to the investigative committee, the warrant was withdrawn.

At present, General Prem's image in parliament has been tarnished. He may not be able to control the votes of the senators and may lose the vote on the draft act to revise the constitution. Politically, his reputation has been damaged in the eyes of the people. As for why he took this unsparing action, General Athit Kamlangek, the assistant commander in chief of the army, said that "who is involved is not important. If someone does something wrong, the matter must be handled in accord with the law." This is a sign that there will be some changes in the near future.

Officers State Views

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 18 Jul 82 p 10

[Article: "An Honest Prime Minister Is Not Enough; the Subordinates Must Be Honest Too"]

[Text] "Warrant Issued for Prem Aide For Arms Smuggling" or "Major General Ordered Arrested for Smuggling Arms in Violation of Security."

Such headlines have appeared for several consecutive days on the front pages of most of the daily newspapers. In greater detail, a warrant for the arrest of Major General Sawong Phinyo, an aide to the minister of defense (General Prem Tinsulanon) and an officer attached to army general headquarters, was issued by Police General Suraphon Chunlaphrom, the director-general of the Police Department, on charges of having committed violations against national security. Warrants were also issued for the arrest of two other officers of field-grade rank, names unknown, on charges of having committed violations against national security.

At the same time, the Office of the Army Secretary issued a statement saying that since the army has learned that Major General Sawong Phinyo, who is assigned to army headquarters, had conspired with another officer to use the name of a government unit to purchase weapons from abroad, which is an illegal action, the army conducted an initial investigation. However, it did not receive the cooperation it should have from these two men. From the documents that were inspected, it appeared that there was evidence that violations had been committed. Therefore, both men were called for further investigation. But neither man reported for the questioning as stipulated. Thus, the army informed the Police Department, which issued a warrant for their arrest. At present, Major General Sawong has reported to the investigative committee and an investigation is underway. The army has affirmed that if the investigation shows that someone has done something illegal, the punishment will be considered in accord with the offense and everything possible will be done to ensure that these weapons do not fall into the hands of people who have bad intentions toward the country.

"I will speak in accord with what has been reported" said General Prem after giving reporters permission to question him about the facts. "You can learn the details from the army; I will only highlight the major points. The army received a report that weapons had been ordered. They conducted an investigation because, normally, weapons are ordered in the name of the government. Private individuals and individual officers have never been allowed to purchase weapons. Weapons must be purchased in the name of the army, navy or air force. When the report was received, the army began seeking the facts. It appears that there are two people involved, Major General Sawong and Major Wiwat. The army thus established a committee to investigate the matter. The evidence showed that there were grounds [for further investigation] and so the two men were asked to come testify. They are not defendants. At present, it is more proper to say that they have been accused. By chance, when the committee asked them to come testify, it was not able to follow them. Since it was believed that

they were not going to come testify, the police were informed. But now, Major General Sawong has come forward. We must wait for the results of the investigation. If a violation has been committed, the case must be handled in accord with the law."

Besides this, General Prem admitted that Major General Sawong was once his aide. But now, he has not been his aide for a long time. Regardless of whether he was an aide or not, this will not result in this matter, or case, dying down. "I will not shelter someone who has done something wrong. Everything must be done in accord with the law."

General Prem confirmed that the actions of Major General Sawong "were personal actions; they did not involve me or the government."

Concerning the actions of this aide to the minister of defense, a newspaper report has stated that Major General Sawong Phinyo and Major Wiwat Wisanuwimon, who is assigned to the Chemical Department, used their authority to engage in arms trading by purchasing 4,000 M16s, A1s, from the United States. They claimed that these were for the RTA. But Singapore customs officials checked with the Thai government and so the matter came to light.

Within just 1 year, there have been three cases of subordinates of national administrative officials being engaged in unsavory affairs. The first case involved a subordinate of Colonel Thanat Khoman, the deputy prime minister and former leader of the Democrat Party. In his capacity as secretary to Colonel Thanat, Mr Charoen Khanthuang, a former Democrat MP from Bangkok, used the Government House for personal gain. The second case involved a subordinate of Mr Banyat Banthaththan, a Democrat MP from Surat Thani and the deputy minister of interior. The man was involved in transporting marihuana. The most recent case involves an aide of the prime minister himself, although in his [Prem's] position as minister of defense.

Concerning the facts that have been revealed here, the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and the deputy minister of interior all took action and immediately ordered that investigations be conducted to determine the facts. This has helped reduce the criticism. But it is worth noting that no reports concerning the results of the investigations have been issued in order to inform the people. As for the first case, which involved using the Government House for personal gain, sufficient time has passed now [but no results have been forthcoming]. Thus, it is impossible to guess when the results of the investigations of the second and third cases will be revealed. As for the latest case, this is a matter concerning the army. It will probably take a particularly long time and so it is impossible to say when the matter will be concluded.

As for the action of this former adie to the minister of defense, no one expects the minister of defense to be regarded as such an important figure in this that he will have to resign, just as neither the deputy prime minister nor the deputy minister of interior were involved.

Lieutenant General Chantharakhup Sirisut, the secretary-general of the prime minister, talked about the possible resignation of the minister of defense. He said: "Don't force him to resign. He will leave the position in just a few more months."

The government under the leadership of General Prem Tinsulanon feels that it has an image of greater honesty than any previous government. In addition to the fact that the prime minister has been praised for being an "honest person," old political parties known for their honesty, such as the Democrat Party, have been drawn into the government to help administer the country.

This has improved the government's image even more. Even though there have been such affairs, the honesty of General Prem, Colonel Thanat and Mr Banyat will probably not be questioned by very many people. But the honesty of those subordinates close to them will be questioned by more people.

The [present] government has very little time remaining to govern the country. But it seems that these people may one day return to office and again take responsibility for governing the country. And before that day, there is an old Thai proverb that says "beware of big elephants, cobras, old slaves and loving wives." Those who govern must be on guard.

It is not enough that the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and the deputy minister of interior are honest people. Those close to them must be honest too.

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CSO: 4207/137

EDITORIAL URGES 'TRUE NEUTRALITY' ON KAMPUCHEA

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 7 Aug 82 p 3

[Editorial: "The Past That Is Remembered, an Obstacle to Peace"]

[Text] In discussing the retorts by Vietnam and the Asean countries, of which Thailand is the spearhead, on the Kampuchean problem, we can summarize things as follows:

Vietnam, which is the leader of the "three Indochina states," has clearly stated that the Kampuchean problem is a matter in which there can be no turning back. This means that Kampuchea will be administered according to the dictates of Hanoi.

Vietnam has referred to interference in the internal affairs of the Indochina countries by the Asean countries, particularly Thailand. Thailand once sent soldiers to fight in the Vietnam war as underlings of the United States in order to oppose the reunification of Vietnam. Furthermore, even after Vietnam changed its form of government, spies from Thailand, with the aid of the United States, still interfered in their internal affairs and set up a rightist movement in order to topple the Vietnamese government.

As for the problems in Kampuchea, on his visit to the Asean countries, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese minister of foreign affairs, stressed that it was Thailand that provided the most support in establishing the Khmer coalition government. Thailand has worked as an intermediary and has served as a sanctuary for the forces of the groups opposing the Khmer government. Thailand has been a slave to the aggressive policies of China and the United States. Vietnam also threatened that "our patience is limited." This means that Vietnam may use military force to pursue and suppress the Khmer Rouge and Khmer Seri groups that flee into Thailand "without fear of opposition from the RTA."

As for Thailand and the Asean countries, the Thai government has a clear policy on the Kampuchean affair. Its policy is that Vietnam must withdraw its 200,000 troops from Kampuchea and allow the Kampuchean people to decide their own fate.

Thailand considers Vietnam to be an historical enemy to the east just as was Burma in the west. The only difference is that Vietnam has been an historical enemy up to the very present. Thus, exerting pressure on Vietnam to withdraw as far away as possible has always been a basic foreign policy. Vietnam gaining direct influence in Kampuchea and Laos is thus something that the Thai government cannot put up with since no one can be sure that Vietnam will not cross the border and invade Thailand.

In particular, the more than 80,000 Vietnamese refugees who fled into Thailand during the time of the battle of Dien Bien Phu have still not returned to their homeland. Even though Thailand has tried to negotiate with Vietnam many times, the Thai government and the sectors concerned with security have all stated that "Vietnam's assurances that it will not invade Thailand cannot be believed. Thus, conditions in which Vietnam is not able to invade Thailand must be created. This means that Vietnam must be kept as far away as possible."

It can be seen that both sides have made and implemented foreign policies on the basis of "mutual distrust." Vietnam's distrust is based on the fact that Thailand once sent troops to fight in Vietnam, followed by the Kampuchean problem. As for Thailand, its distrust is based on the fact that Vietnam has supported the CPT, providing training in terrorist methods and giving other types of support. And as for Kampuchea, Thailand is fearful that Vietnam will invade Thailand.

Thus, the false starts and the negotiations have always failed.

If the two sides do not examine matters and solve the problems left over from the past -- such as by having the Vietnamese refugees return to Vietnam, having Thailand take a truly neutralist position on the Kampuchean problem, having Vietnam show an attitude of allowing Kampuchea to determine its own fate by withdrawing its forces and allowing United Nations' forces to be stationed there to help ensure peace -- and if they cannot erase the past, regardless of how many trips are made or by which side, it will not be possible to bring about peace and the trips will only increase the chances of war.

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END